



HEROES

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THE SHADOW™



BODY & SOUL • PART 2

PUBLISHERIAL

JENETTE • KAHN

DC LIST

THIS WEEK

I was knocked out by the cover of THE KILLING JOKE. Brian Bolland's art was so striking, of course, and all the Joker's macabre malevolence was summed up in a single word menacingly afloat in the clear white expanse of a dialogue balloon: "Smile." Yet it wasn't just this perfect counterpoint of word and picture that made me reach eagerly for the book.

It was the tifle, foo, embossed on the cover at a skewed angle in acid green letters. The raised letters, the perverse slant of the type, the neon green all told me there was something about this book, like the Joker's sanity, that was over the edge.

All the DC books, but especially the high-end ones, have a distinctive look, a feeling of quality, a sense of care on every page. There is no doubt that the DC upscale books look better than any others in the marketplace. I decided to talk to Richard Bruning, our senior art director, about how he works with talent and the whole printing process to set a standard for others to emulate.

Ambling down the hall to Richard's office, I found him inside with the door closed. He was bent over his desk in intense concentration proofing the color of V FOR VENOETTA by comparing it with the black and white art. I had interrupted him in the middle of an ordinary part of his job—quality control.

How does he come up with a package like OARK KNIGHT or KILLING JOKE or the hard-cover edition of BATMAN: YEAR ONE? Richard explained.

"I learned working with Frank Miller on OARK KNIGHT that the process starts at the very beginning. The design of the package, the color, the lettering—every aspect should be reviewed at the beginning to make it as cohesive as possible.

"A good example of that would be WATCHMEN, where the cover was the first panel of the story. The text feature every issue would reflect something that related to the storyline. Depending on the specific people, usually I'll sit down with the creator and discuss the book. Sometimes, as with Dave Gibbons and Alan Moore, they come in with every detail thought out. In that case I say I will fine-tune and execute your ideas as closely as I can.

"In other cases it's more 50/50. With OARK KNIGHT, Frank and I agreed that the endpapers (the pages just inside the covers) would be dark so that when you came upon Lynn Varley's art it would burst out. The analogy we used was going into a theater, having the lights go dark and then having color and light erupt on the screen."

As we've upgraded our printing techniques (from letterpress on the mainline books to offset in the higher-priced ones) and our paper as well, the colorist has come to play a more and more important part. In fact, we have started to refer to colorists, rightfully, as color artists.

Says Richard: "Very early on, the writer and artist must consider how much work is going to be done by the color artist. They have to bring the color artist in as one of the main players. The color artist will render the tonal values of the story, the texture of the story.

One won't have to say it's a hot, blistering day, the color will tell you. More and more, the colorist has become a storyteller."

Offset printing has given us more creative latitude. As Richard points out, it has "allowed us to do more refined artwork and more refined color. Even there, however, the actual paper we're printing on and even the inks will affect coloring."

Richard expands upon the limitations. "A lot of people will think that now I can color any color and it will turn out that way. But this is not true, because it's still a printing process and the end colors are only those that four different inks are capable of producing. John Higgins, for instance (in KILLING JOKE and WATCHMEN) painted in incredibly vivid colors that are not achievable in printing with four colors. But John wants to paint as intensely as he can, hoping the method of reproduction will come as close as possible."

So how did we get the acid green on the cover of KILLING JOKE? That actually was a fifth ink that we added to the press and paid extra for. It's one of those details that helps make the cover more special and that we're willing to underwrite in our pursuit of quality.

"You may have noticed that BATMAN: YEAR ONE is printed on different paper from DARK KNIGHT or THE KILLING JOKE," Richard points out. "Brian and Alan said THE KILLING JOKE starts with a scene in a puddle. As often happens in a collaboration, you don't know whose idea is whose. But we took the puddle motif and said, can we do something with the endpapers to continue that idea? Once a reader opens the book he is totally involved in the experience of the book.

"One of the last things I do," Richard further elucidates, "is go to Ronald's to supervise the book coming off the press. If it's not coming through right, we stop the presses and pull it off and fix it. This is one of the things that distinguishes DC—the quality control right to the very end."

Richard works with other designers on the DC staff, but it's his commitment to experimentation, risk-taking and quality that creates an environment where we are continually pioneering new territory.

"It's a really exciting time for comics," declares Richard in a statement that sums up what could be called his credo, "because it's a chance to examine all the ground rules, to throw out those that don't work, to make new ones. It's scary and frustrating sometimes, but the freedom to try and make mistakes allows us to achieve things we've never achieved before."

With an attitude like that—which finds support in the highest levels of DC—it's no wonder our books are the best-looking ones on your shelves.

—Jenette

SUPERMAN BUTTON SET

Four buttons with art by Joe Shuster, Curt Swan, Jerry Ordway and John Byrne celebrating Superman's 50th anniversary.

NEW TEEN TITANS 48

Hammer and Sickle of the People's Heroes have come for Red Star, and they won't let the Titans stop them. ◆◆

THE SHADOW 15

The Shadow's sons continue to bring their father's body to the Far East, but a rock star wants the body for his private collection. ◆◆▲

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY 613

Nightwing joins the lineup with a Mike Kaluta cover plus Catwoman, Black Canary, The Phantom Stranger, Superman and Green Lantern. ●

FLASH ANNUAL 12

Wally West's dad returns with a job offer—to guard a ton of bricks! Plus: the Private Life of Chunk. ●

ANIMAL MAN 2

Life in the concrete jungle reaches a dead heat as Animal Man battles the beast that stalks San Diego. ◆◆

FLASH GOROON 5

Much to Ming's displeasure, alliances have been formed. So—Ming strikes back! ◆◆

SWAMP THING 77

Abby's pregnant . . . and all is not sweetness and light. John Constantine's presence doesn't make things any easier. ◆◆▲

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION 6

More on the 30th century's greatest heroes, plus a guided tour of Metropolis. ●

DOOM PATROL 13

Power Girl meets a new Lord of Chaos, and that spells trouble for the Oom Patrol. ●

POWER OF THE ATOM 3

Strobe wants to establish his rep so he shows up to face off against the Atom, the media's latest darling. Plus—more with Jean Loring and the CIA. ●

STARMAN 1

The newest star in the DC Universe gets his power mysteriously, and William Payton has to figure out what to do with them. All-new action and adventure. ●

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 445

The terrible transformation begins anew, and not even Superman can save an innocent soul from Brainiac! ●

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER, DC COMICS

LEGEND

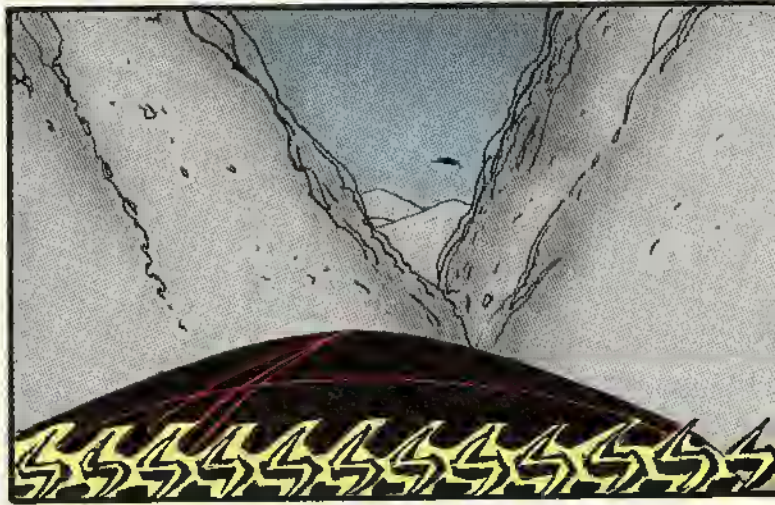
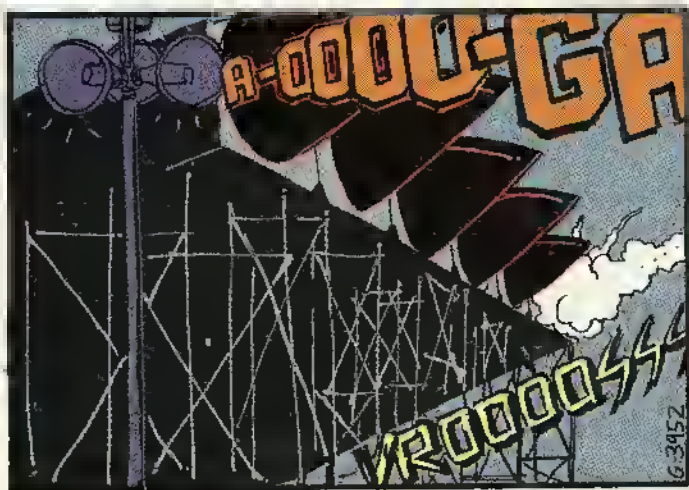
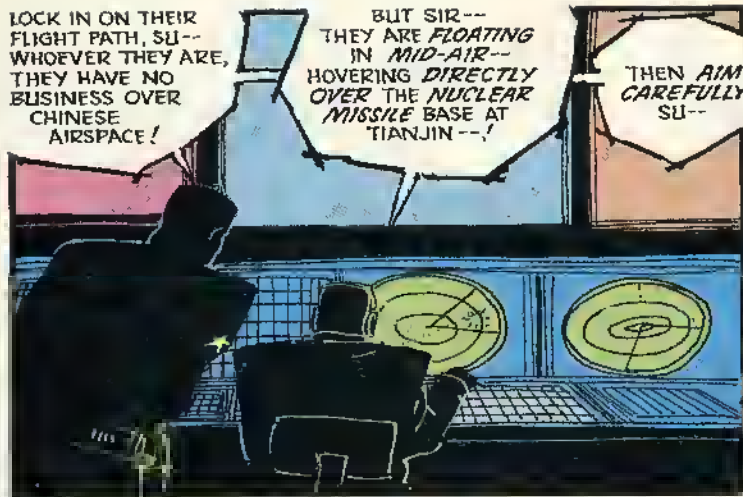
- Standard Format
- ◆ New Format
- ◆ Deluxe Format
- ▶ Available at Select Outlets
- ★ Prestige Format
- Graphic Novel
- Collected Edition
- ▲ Suggested for Mature Readers

LOCK IN ON THEIR
FLIGHT PATH, SU--
WHOEVER THEY ARE,
THEY HAVE NO
BUSINESS OVER
CHINESE
AIRSPACE!

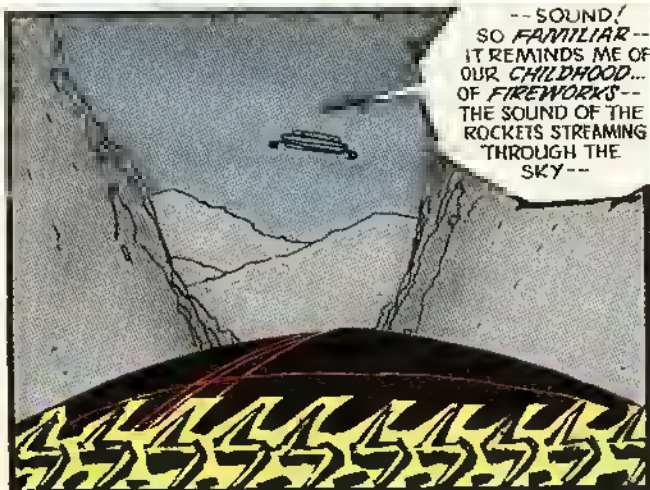
BUT SIR--
THEY ARE *FLOATING*
IN *MID-AIR*--
HOVERING *DIRECTLY*
OVER THE *NUCLEAR*
MISSILE BASE AT
TIANJIN--!

THEN AIM
CAREFULLY,
SU--

--YOU
ONLY GET
ONE
SHOT--!



-- SOUND!
SO *FAMILIAR*--
IT REMINDS ME OF
OUR *CHILDHOOD*--
OF *FIREWORKS*--
THE SOUND OF THE
ROCKETS STREAMING
THROUGH THE
SKY--



-- JUST
BEFORE
THEY--



ANNO

WE ARE
ABOUT TO DIE,
BROTHER--

NOT NECESSARILY,
HSU-TEI. WE ARE, AFTER
ALL, PALADINS OF
SHAMBALA-- MASTERS OF
THE METAPHYSICAL WAY
OF THE SHADOW
WARRIOR, TRAINED IN THE--

--YOU ARE
KIDDING,
CORRECT,
CHANG?

WE WILL
FIND OUT
MOMENTARILY,
BROTHER--

REMEMBER
MASTER CHOU'S
LESSONS,
HSU-TEI--

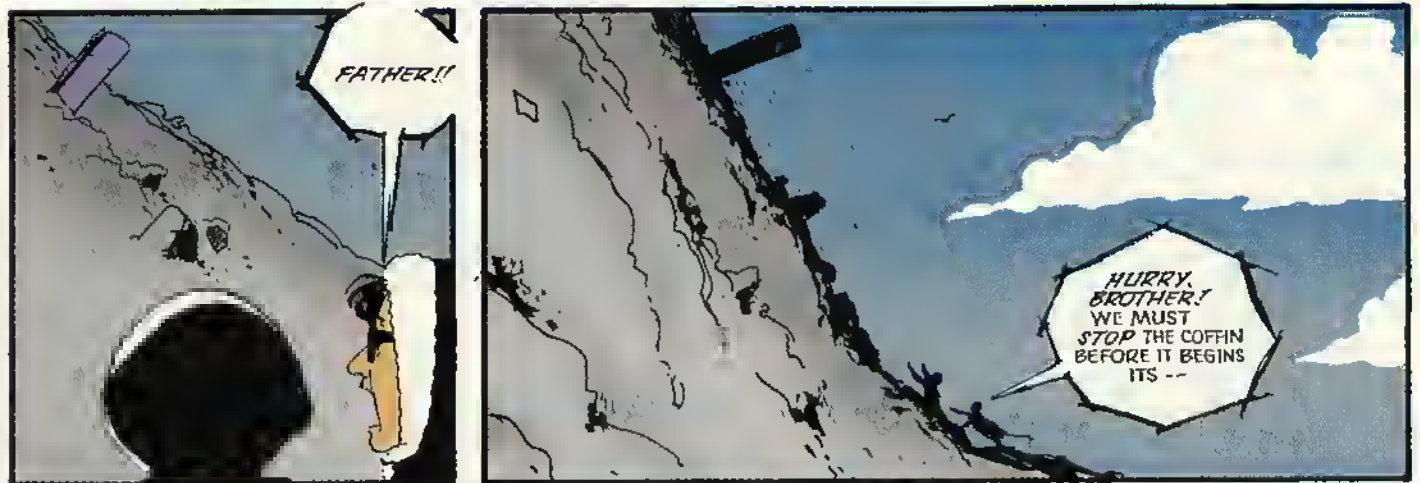
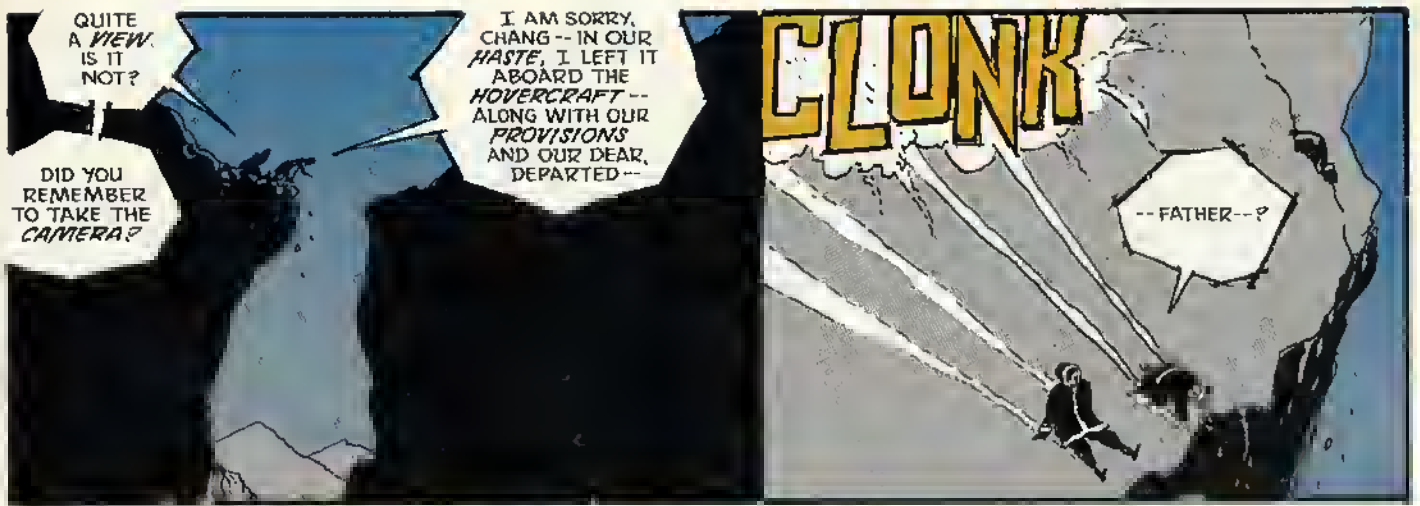
--MAKE
GRAVITY
YOUR
ALLY--

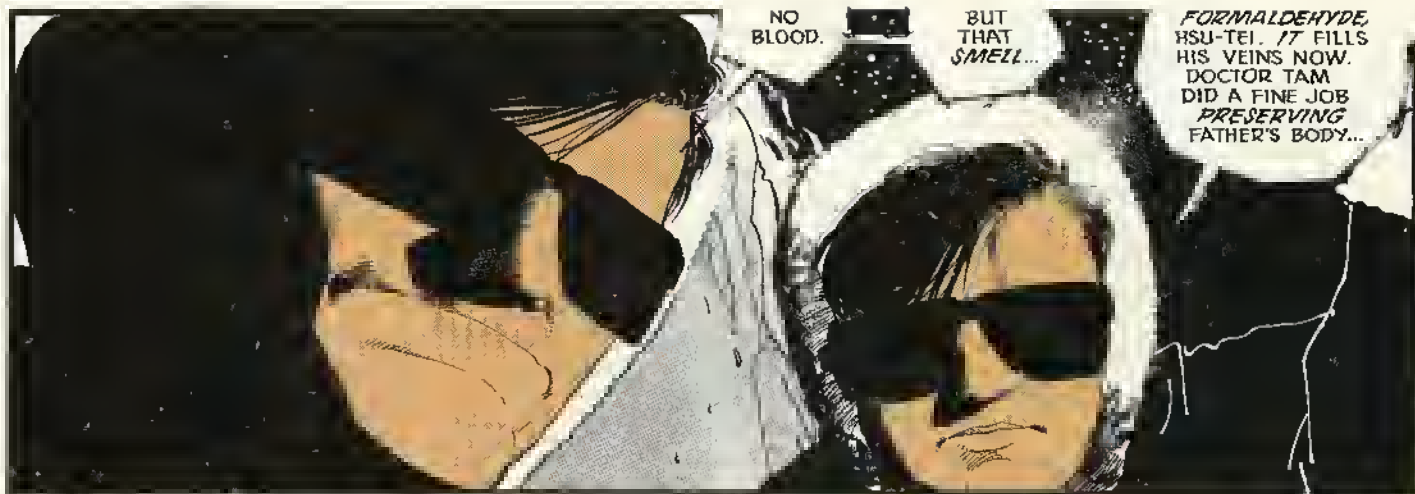
--MOVE
WITH
ITS POWER--

--THEN
SLOWLY
LOOSEN
ITS GRIP--

--AND
COME TO
A
GENTLE--

--STOP-P-P-P!!!!





NO BLOOD.

BUT THAT SMELL...

FORMALDEHYDE, HSU-TEI. IT FILLS HIS VEINS NOW. DOCTOR TAM DID A FINE JOB PRESERVING FATHER'S BODY...

...IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT *WE* COULD NOT PRESERVE HIS *WORK*...

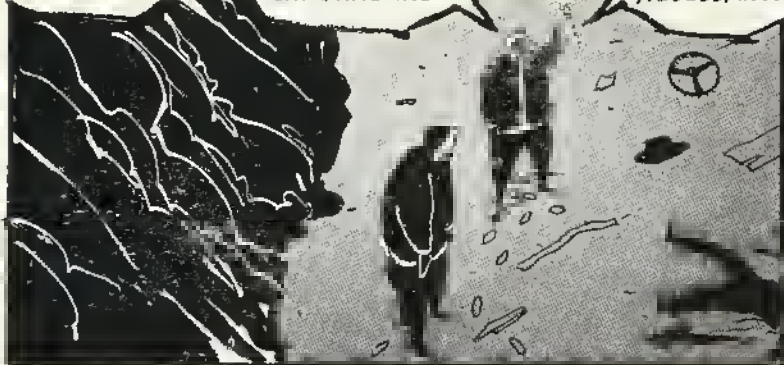
NOT TO MENTION THE *COFFIN*-- THE ELDERS OF SHAMBALA WOULD HAVE MARVELED AT ITS EXTRAVAGANCE--

--EVEN THOUGH *IMMORTALS* SELDOM FIND SUCH OBJECTS PARTICULARLY *NECESSARY*.

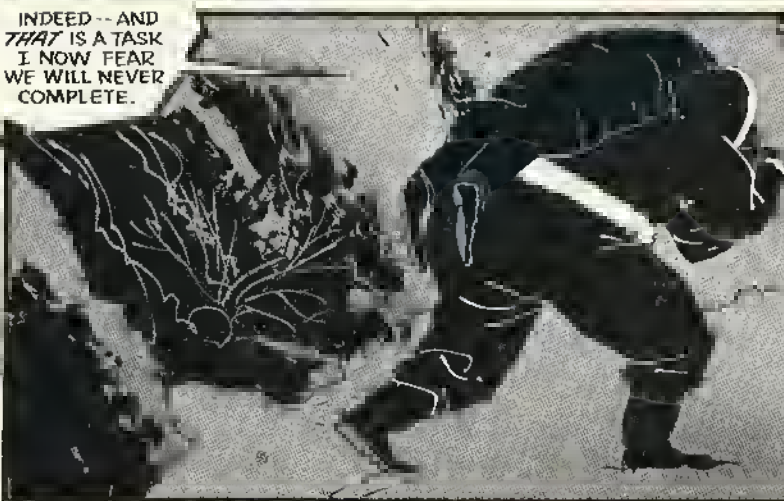
YOU KNOW, CHANG-- I DO BELIEVE THAT IF FATHER WERE ALIVE TO SEE THIS, HE WOULD KILL *US*--

--THEN, IN *SHAME*, KILL *HIMSELF*...

BUT *THEN*, WE COULD NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO RETURN HIS BODY TO SHAMBALA, EH?



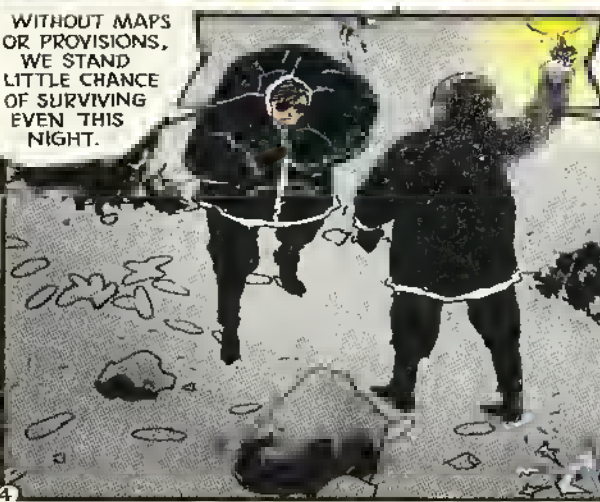
INDEED-- AND *THAT* IS A TASK I NOW FEAR WE WILL NEVER COMPLETE.



YOU SOUND BITTER, BROTHER.

I AM SORRY. IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT DAY.

WITHOUT MAPS OR PROVISIONS, WE STAND LITTLE CHANCE OF SURVIVING EVEN THIS NIGHT.

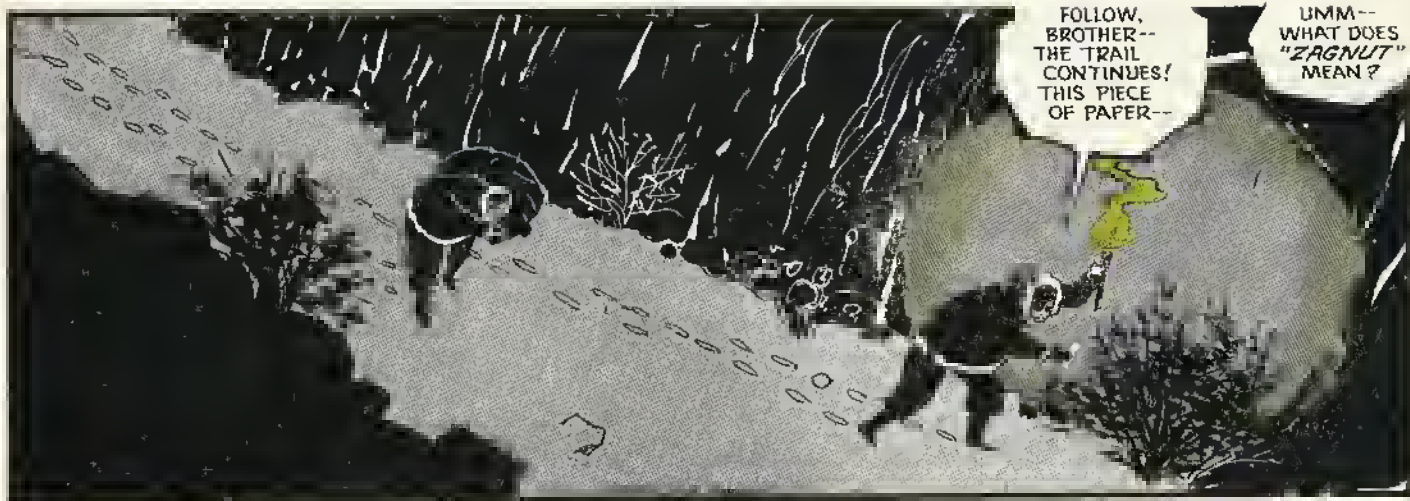


BUT WE MUST TRY TO PERSEVERE. WE OWE IT TO OUR BELOVED FATHER-- TO PRESS ON, THROUGH THE SAVAGE WINDS, ACROSS THE BARREN MOUNTAINS--

--TO FIND HIS HIDDEN HOMELAND, THOUGH WE MAY BE HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM EVEN A *TRACE* OF--



--CIVILIZATION?



FOLLOW,
BROTHER--
THE TRAIL
CONTINUES!
THIS PIECE
OF PAPER--

UMM--
WHAT DOES
"ZAGNUT"
MEAN?



THIS
DOES NOT
BODE WELL,
BROTHER...



...NOR DOES
THAT...

WHICH
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
WON?



I BELIEVE
IT WAS A
DRAW...



AH! LISTEN TO
THE VOICES! JUST
AROUND THIS CORNER,
CIVILIZATION
BECKONS!

WARMTH!
FOOD! A PLACE
TO REST OUR
WEARY SOULS!

FOR SOME
INEXPLICABLE
REASON, I
FAIL TO SHARE
YOUR
OPTIMISM...

欢迎 病了原意

DARE WE
VENTURE
ONWARD,
BROTHER?

IF WE
DO NOT,
IT WILL BE
YOUR TURN
TO CARRY
FATHER'S CORPSE
THROUGH THE
SNOW--

LET US
PROCEED,
THEN.

BODY AND SOUL, PART 2

A TOWN CALLED MALICE

A KLEPTOCRATIC MANIFESTO FATHERED BY

ANDREW HELFER
WORDS

KYLE BAKER
PICTURES

BOB LAPPAN
LETTERS

TOM ZIUKO
COLORS

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

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EDITOR

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I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE ALL
WONDERING *WHY*
I CALLED YOU
HERE...



ACTUALLY, NO, HARRY.
WE KNOW *WHY*
WE'RE HERE--NOW
WE'VE GOT TO
FIGURE OUT *WHAT*
WE'RE GOING TO
DO ABOUT IT.

AH... YES. WELL, I SUPPOSE
WE ALREADY *HAVE* AGREED
TO CONTINUE THE SHADOW'S
WORK-- AT LEAST UNTIL
HIS CHILDREN RETURN
TO TAKE HIS
PLACE --

--I
WOULDN'T
COUNT ON
THAT, POPS--



INDEED...WELL, I'VE
BEEN BUSY CONTACTING
OUR FELLOW AGENTS
AND I'M HAPPY TO
REPORT THAT MOST ARE
WILLING TO DO THEIR PART
TO HELP OUR NEW
ORGANIZATION...

LORELEI HAS
AGREED TO CONTINUE
MANNING THE PHONES,
ACTING AS OUR
GENERAL CLEARING-
HOUSE--

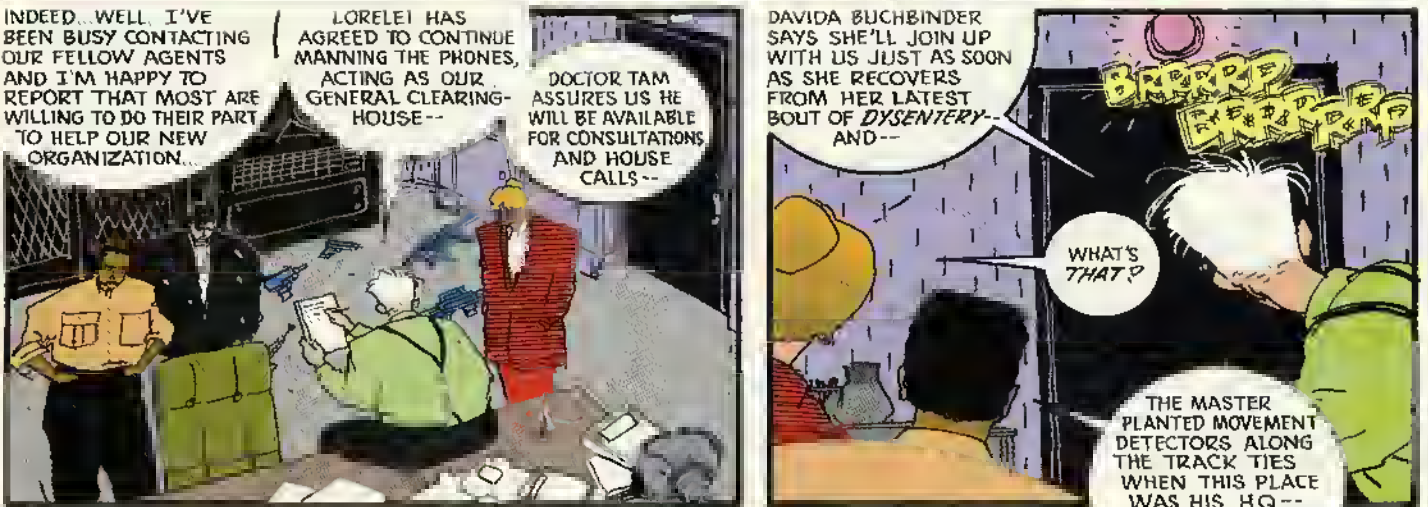
DOCTOR TAM
ASSURES US HE
WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR CONSULTATIONS
AND HOUSE
CALLS--

DAVIDA BUCHBINDER
SAYS SHE'LL JOIN UP
WITH US JUST AS SOON
AS SHE RECOVERS
FROM HER LATEST
BOUNT OF *DYSENTERY*--
AND--

**BRRRRP
BRRRRP
BRRRRP**

WHAT'S
THAT?

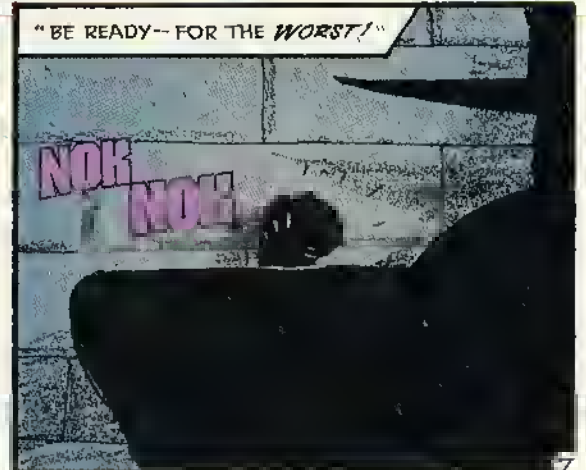
THE MASTER
PLANTED MOVEMENT
DETECTORS ALONG
THE TRACK TIES
WHEN THIS PLACE
WAS HIS HQ--

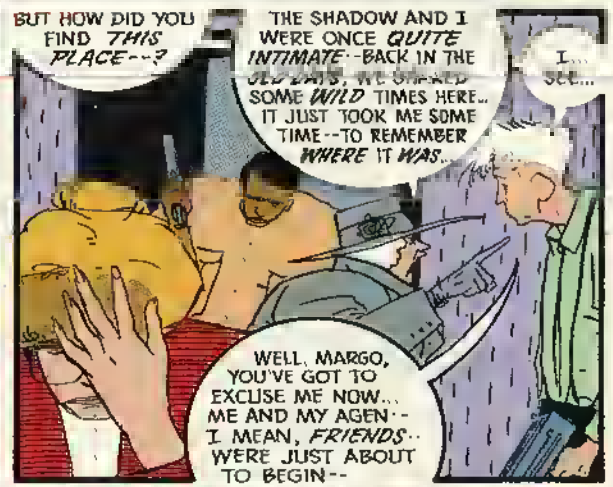


--SOMEONE'S *COMING*!



"BE READY-- FOR THE *WORST*!"







ONE

SHOT IS
ALL IT TAKES

TWO

PERSONALITIES
BURIED IN
THE PAST

THREE

WOMEN WHO
LOVED HIM

FOUR

LIVES
IRREVOCABLY
SHATTERED



DEADSHOT


A FOUR-ISSUE MINI-SERIES
JOHN OSTRANDER AND KIM YALE
ART BY LUKE McDONNELL
STANDARD FORMAT
BEGINNING IN JULY



SO
NOW
WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW, ELT--
YOU WANT TO BE OUR
LEADER? *YOU* WANT TO
TRY AND ORGANIZE US
ALL INTO A CRACK
COVERT ANTI CRIME
UNIT?

YOU THINK *YOU'RE*
GOOD ENOUGH
TO HEAD UP
SHADOWCORPS?



NOW LOOK, MAVIS--
NONE OF US ARE
CAPABLE OF *THAT*!
WE'RE ALL *FOLLOWERS*--
WE *TAKE* ORDERS,
NOT *GIVE*
THEM!

WE NEED
A *LEADER*--
SOMEONE WITH
THE *STRENGTH OF*
WILL AND VENGEFUL
PASSION TO
GUIDE OUR
ACTIONS!

HARRY
THOUGHT HE COULD
DO IT-- HE *MIGHT* EVEN
HAVE SUCCEEDED-- BUT
MARGO SEEMS FAIRLY
DETERMINED *NOT* TO
LET HIM COME OUT
AND PLAY!

SO NOW WE EITHER
FIND SOMEONE
NEW-- OR GET
BACK TO LIVING
THE *NORMAL*
LIFE...

TOO BAD *TWITCH*
AIN'T HERE-- HE
WOULDA HAD SOMETHIN'
TA CALM THE OLD LADY
DOWN-- BUT
GOOD...

YEAH--
AND
SPEAKING
OF
TWITCH--

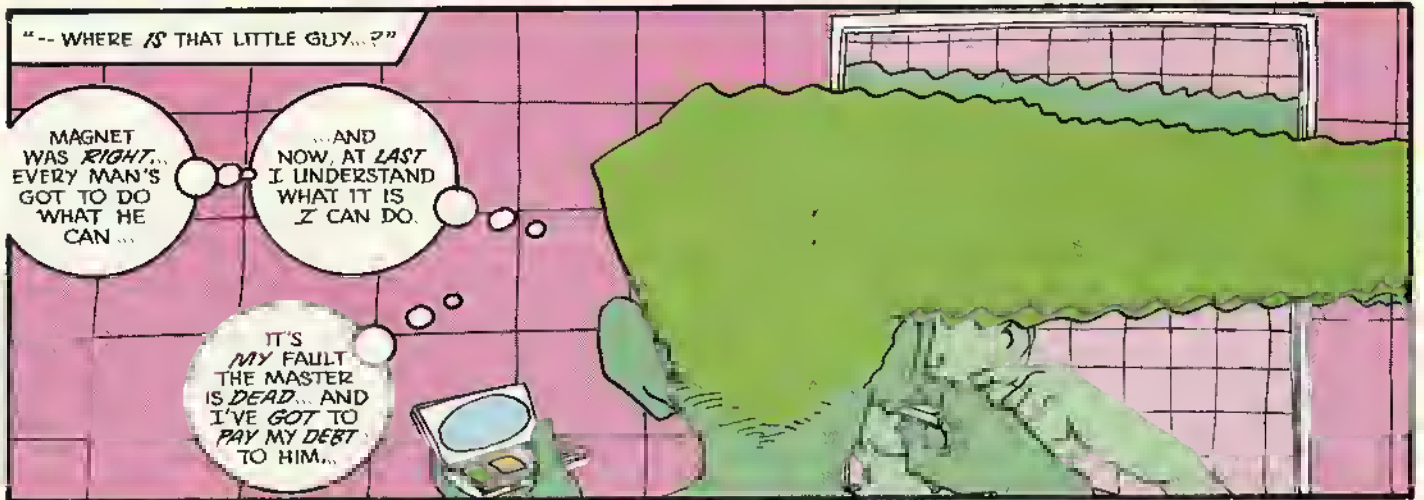


"-- WHERE *IS* THAT LITTLE GUY...?"

MAGNET
WAS *RIGHT*...
EVERY MAN'S
GOT TO DO
WHAT HE
CAN...

...AND
NOW, AT LAST
I UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT IS
Z CAN DO.

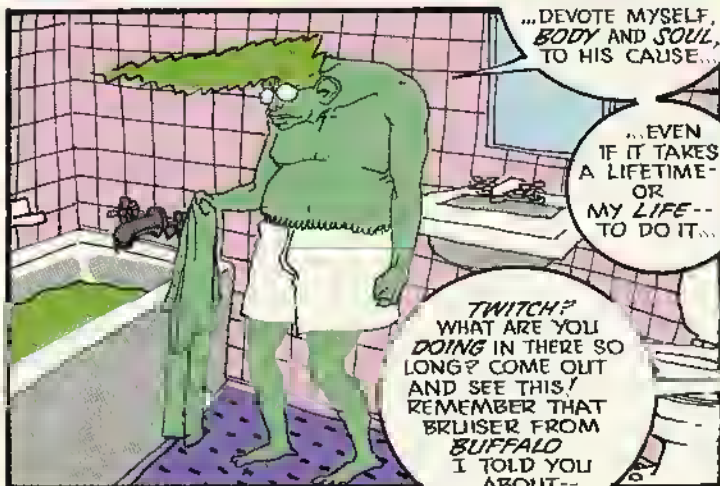
IT'S
MY FAULT
THE MASTER
IS DEAD... AND
I'VE GOT TO
PAY MY DEBT
TO HIM...



...DEVOTE MYSELF,
BODY AND *SOUL*,
TO HIS CAUSE...

...EVEN
IF IT TAKES
A LIFETIME--
OR
MY *LIFE*--
TO DO IT...

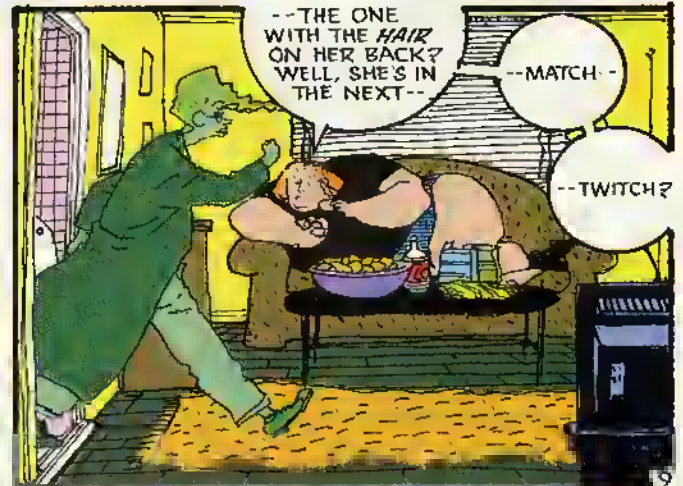
TWITCH?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING IN THERE SO
LONG? COME OUT
AND SEE THIS!
REMEMBER THAT
BRUISE FROM
BUFFALO
I TOLD YOU
ABOUT--



--THE ONE
WITH THE *HAIR*
ON HER BACK?
WELL, SHE'S IN
THE NEXT--

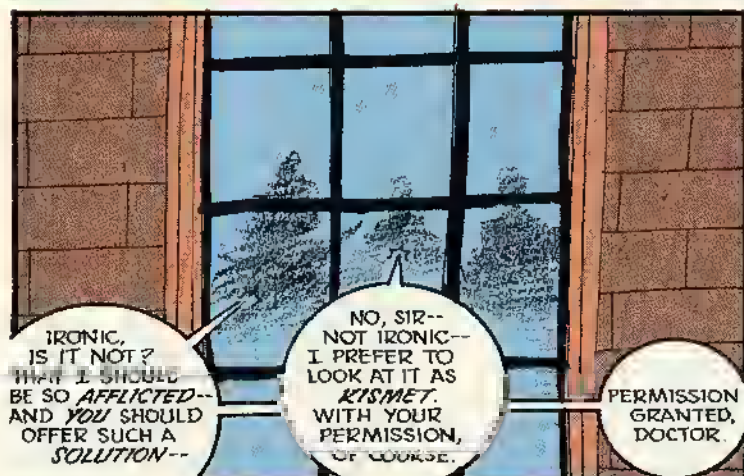
--MATCH--

--TWITCH?



GENTLEMEN--IT IS INDEED GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT THE MANY DOLLARS I HAVE DONATED TO YOUR INSTITUTE HAVE YIELDED RESULTS...

YET, I ASSURE YOU, I NEVER EXPECTED TO *DIRECTLY* BENEFIT FROM YOUR WORK...



IRONIC, IS IT NOT? THAT I SHOULD BE SO *AFFLICTED*--AND *YOU* SHOULD OFFER SUCH A *SOLUTION*--

NO, SIR--NOT IRONIC--I PREFER TO LOOK AT IT AS *KISMET*. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, OF COURSE.

PERMISSION GRANTED, DOCTOR.

IT IS QUITE A... *COMPELLING* OBJECT--ALMOST... *ATTRACTIVE* AFTER A FASHION...

THE AESTHETIC WAS *INTENTIONAL*, SIR--ONE OF THIS NATION'S FOREMOST INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS *WAS* PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM.

HE'S DEAD, THEN?

YES, SIR.



PITY--I IMAGINE HE WOULD HAVE DONE A *SPLENDID* JOB DECORATING MY *BEDROOM*...

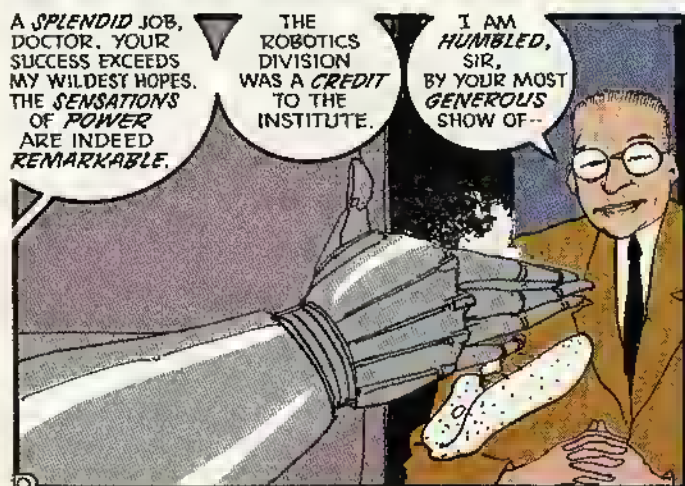
STILL, WE CANNOT HAVE PEOPLE KNOWING WHAT MAKES ME *TICK*, EH?

NO MORE THAN ARE NECESSARY FOR *ROUTINE* MAINTENANCE, SIR...

A *SPLENDID* JOB, DOCTOR. YOUR SUCCESS EXCEEDS MY WILDEST HOPES. THE *SENSATIONS* OF *POWER* ARE INDEED *REMARKABLE*.

THE ROBOTICS DIVISION WAS A *CREDIT* TO THE INSTITUTE.

I AM *HUMBLED*, SIR, BY YOUR MOST *GENEROUS* SHOW OF--



NOW DO THE *OTHER* ONE.



IT'S IN HERE.
I CAN
FEEL IT.

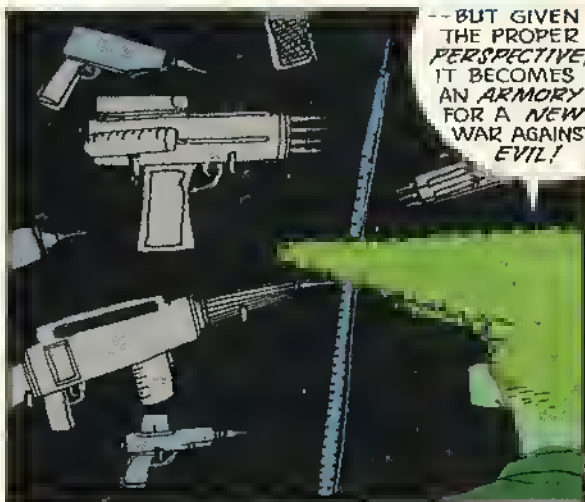
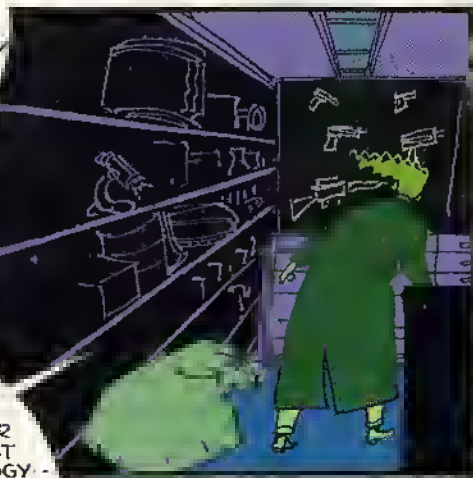
DESTINY
KNOCKS-- BUT
THANKS TO
DOCTOR FLAX'S
SECURITY CARD,
I CAN GO
RIGHT IN.



THE IRONY OF IT!
HERE, IN THE SAME
RESEARCH FACILITY
THAT BIRTHED THE
GERMS THAT
KILLED MY
MASTER--

--ARE THE KEYS
TO MY ULTIMATE
REDEMPTION...

TO ANYONE ELSE,
THIS ROOM IS
LITTLE MORE THAN
A WAREHOUSE FOR
SCIENCE'S GREATEST
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY--



-- BUT GIVEN
THE PROPER
PERSPECTIVE,
IT BECOMES
AN ARMORY
FOR A NEW
WAR AGAINST
EVIL!

THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY
TO DO THIS--

I'VE
GOT TO
GO ALL
THE WAY...



...PURGE
MYSELF OF
MY PAST--
OF THE PETTY
CONCERNS
THAT MADE ME
SMALL AND
MEANINGLESS--

-- EMBRACE
THE DEVICES OF
BENEVOLENT
SCIENCE--

-- AND MAKE THEM
MY TOOLS OF
DESTRUCTION...



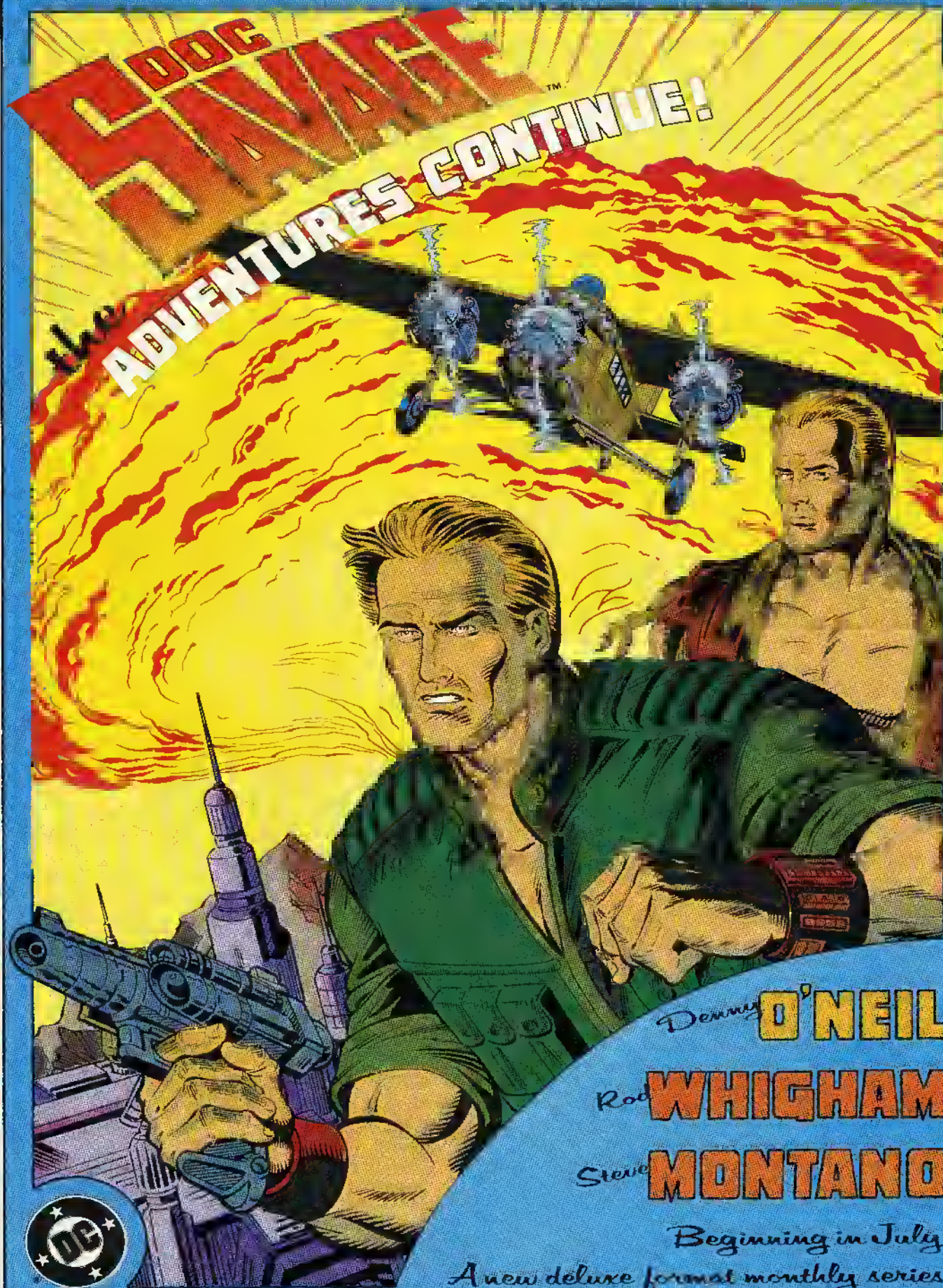
DRUGS ARE THE
ULTIMATE WEAPON
AND I WILL BE
THEIR ULTIMATE
ADMINISTRATOR.

CRIME
IS THE
DISEASE--
AND I AM
THE
CURE.

TWITCHKOWITZ
IS DEAD-- NOW
BEGINS THE ERA
OF--

THE
INOCULATOR!





SO,
PLEASE TELL ME,
BROTHER--IS THIS
CIVILIZATION??

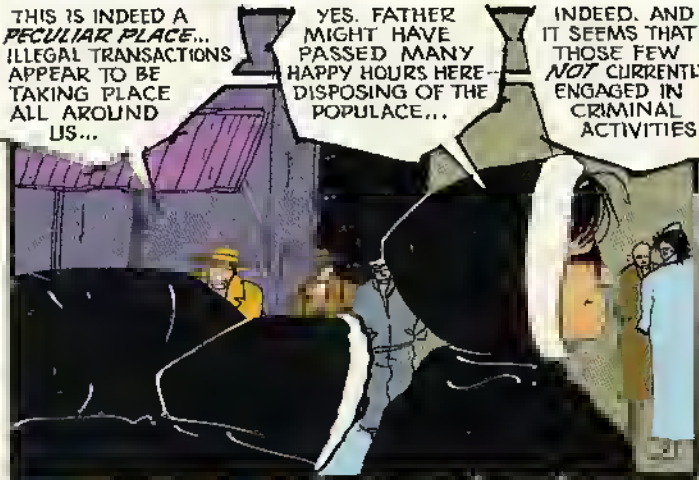


NOT IN THE
STRICTEST SENSE
OF THE WORD,
BROTHER--BUT
FOR NOW, IT MUST
SUFFICE.

THIS IS INDEED A
PECULIAR PLACE...
ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS
APPEAR TO BE
TAKING PLACE
ALL AROUND
US...

YES. FATHER
MIGHT HAVE
PASSED MANY
HAPPY HOURS HERE--
DISPOSING OF THE
POPULACE...

INDEED. AND
IT SEEMS THAT
THOSE FEW
NOT CURRENTLY
ENGAGED IN
CRIMINAL
ACTIVITIES--



--ARE
CONTEMPLATING
THEM...

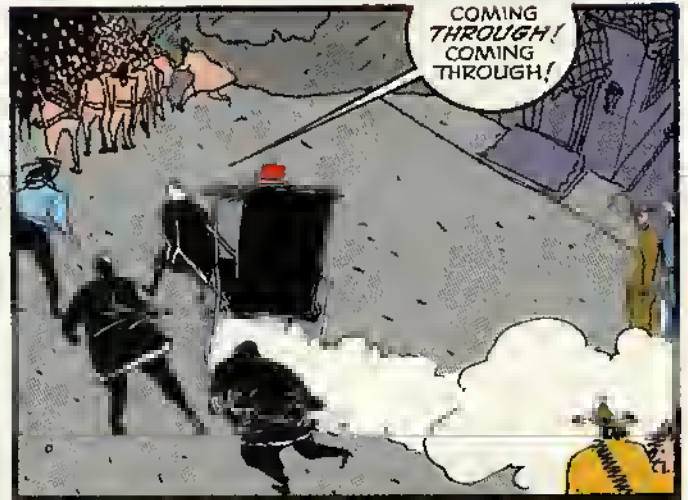


CHANG, HAVE YOU NOTICED
THE CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE
OF ANY MANNER OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT
IN THIS TOWN...?



ARBITRATOR!
CALL FOR THE
ARBITRATOR!!

COMING
THROUGH!
COMING
THROUGH!



NOW --
WHAT SEEMS
TO BE THE
PROBLEM
HERE...?



IT'S SHILLER!
HE'S SOLD ME
M-16 CARTRIDGES
FOR MY M-60 --
AND HE REFUSES
TO EXCHANGE
THEM!

LIES! LIES!
I WOULD GLADLY
EXCHANGE -- I AM
ZIMPLY OUT OF
STOCK!



HMMM...

LET'S SEE
HERE... AH!

ACCORDING TO SECTION
THIRTY-POINT-SEVEN OF
THE MALICE PENAL CODE--
AND I QUOTE--

"THE SALE OF
IMPROPER AMMUNITION,
WHETHER DEFECTIVE OR
INAPPROPRIATE FOR A
GIVEN MACHINE, IS
OFFENSIVE TO THE
POPULACE--AND IS
THEREFORE PUNISHABLE
BY DEATH."

SEEMS PRETTY
CUT AND DRY
TO ME...SO...



BAM

...CASE
CLOSED.



NOW
DISPERSE--
'ALL OF YOU!

UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO
LOOK UP THE PENALTIES
FOR ILLEGAL PUBLIC
GATHERINGS--



JUSTICE
IS INDEED
SWIFT
IN
MALICE...

ALMOST
AS SWIFT AS
FATHER'S
JUSTICE...



ODD, BROTHER--
WITH EACH
PASSING MOMENT,
I GROW MORE
UNEASY ABOUT
THIS PLACE.

YES--IT IS AS IF
THIS *HAVEN* FOR THE
UNSCRUPULOUS
WAS CONSPIRING
AGAINST US...

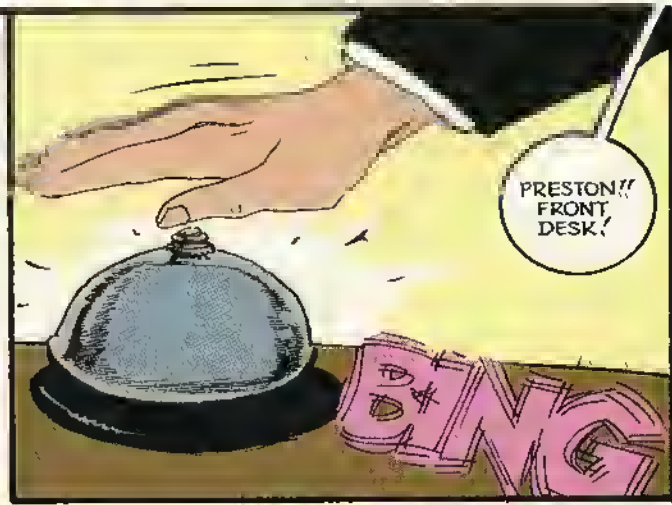
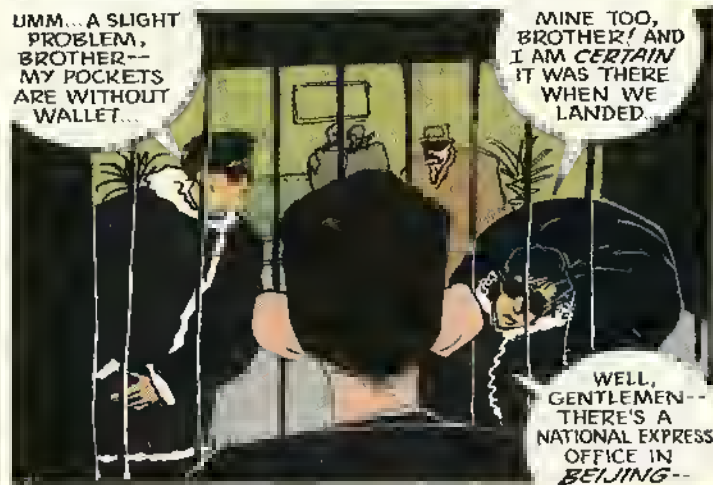
PERHAPS
IT IS
MERELY
PARANOID--



MALICE
HILTON

--BUT
I BELIEVE
WE WOULD
BE *SAFER*
OFF THE STREETS
OF MALICE...





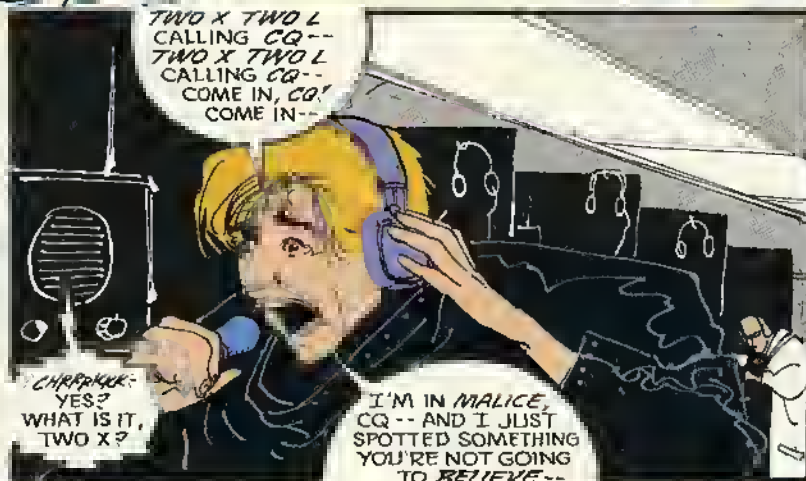


WHOOPS.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUDDY -- YER... UH... BAGGAGE WAS A BIT HEAVIER THAN IT LOOKED.

HOPE THIS WON'T AFFECT MY TIP...

!!!



TWO X TWO L CALLING CQ-- TWO X TWO L CALLING CQ-- COME IN, CQ! COME IN--

CHRRRKE: YES? WHAT IS IT, TWO X?

I'M IN MALICE, CQ-- AND I JUST SPOTTED SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE--

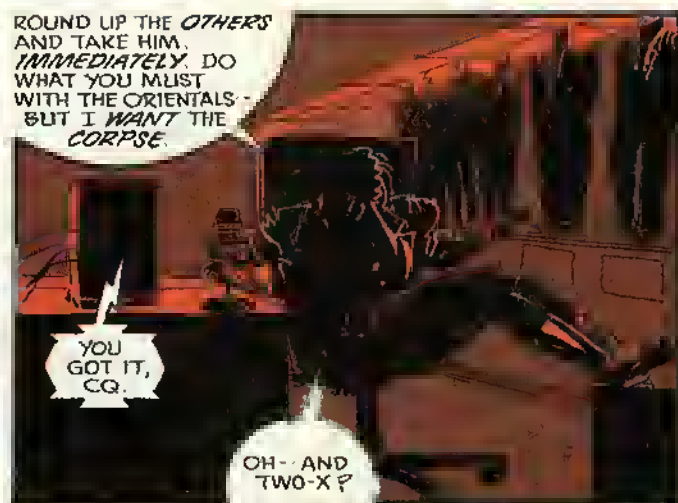


TRY ME, TWO X...

TWO CHINKS JUST WANDERED INTO THE HILTON-- WITH THE BODY OF THE SHADOW!!

WHAAAAATT?

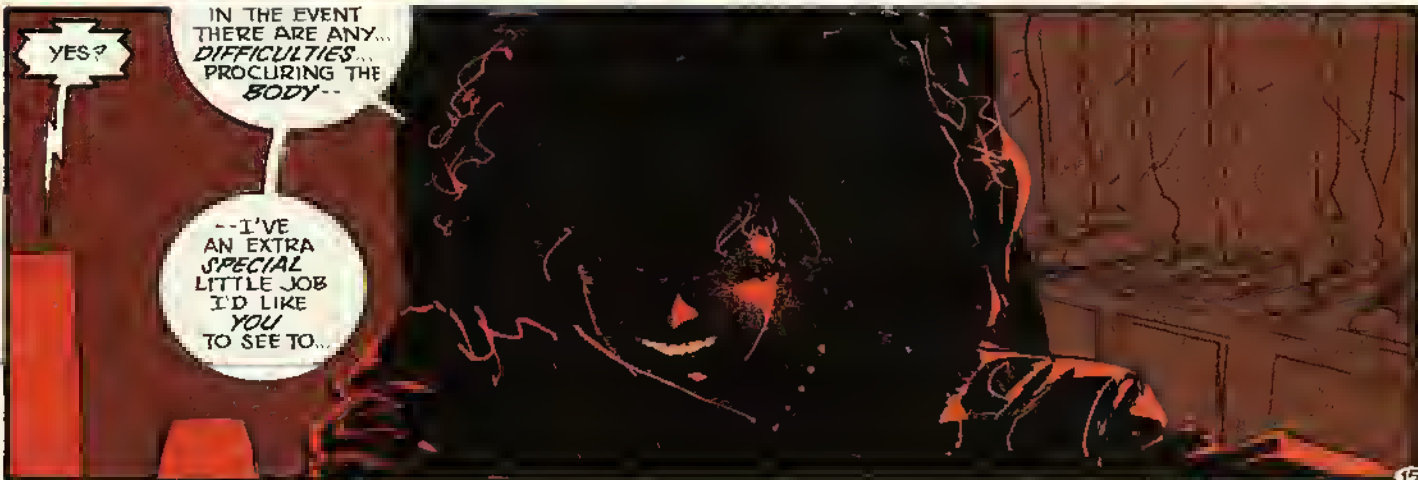
I ONLY SAW PART OF IT-- BUT IT LOOKS TO BE IN PERFECT SHAPE!!



ROUND UP THE OTHERS AND TAKE HIM. IMMEDIATELY. DO WHAT YOU MUST WITH THE ORIENTALS - BUT I WANT THE CORPSE.

YOU GOT IT, CQ.

OH-- AND TWO-X?



YES?

IN THE EVENT THERE ARE ANY DIFFICULTIES... PROCURING THE BODY--

--I'VE AN EXTRA SPECIAL LITTLE JOB I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE TO...

THE COMRADES
IN *CONTROL*
MAKE A *MESS*
AND *WE* HAVE TO
CLEAN IT UP!

SUCH
IS EVER
THE PLIGHT
OF THE
FOOT
SOLDIER!

AND WHAT A MESS
IT IS! NO *BODIES*--
ONLY *DEBRIS*,
SPREAD OUT OVER
HUNDREDS
OF YARDS!

IT MAY
TAKE *WEEKS*
TO REASSEMBLE
THE *PIECES*
FOR OUR REPORT
TO INTERNAL
SECURITY--

SIR!
WE HAVE
FOUND
SOMETHING!

LOOK!
SUNGLASSES!
EXACTLY LIKE
THE ONES WORN
BY THE AMERICAN
DON
JOHNSON!

AND GAILY
DESIGNED
SHIRTS!

AMERICAN *JOURNALS*
CONTAINING PHOTOS OF
NAKED WOMEN!

A PORTABLE
STEREO UNIT--
WITH *TWO PAIRS*
OF *HEADPHONE*
DEVICES!

LISTEN,
LO-SEN--
MADONNA!

WHOEVER
CRASHED HERE
WAS NO *RUSSIAN*
SPY--FROM THE
EVIDENCE IT APPEARS
THEY WERE
AMERICAN TOURISTS!

THIS COULD MEAN
GRAVE PROBLEMS--
AN INTERNATIONAL
INCIDENT! BUT
WHERE ARE THE
BODIES? SURELY,
NO ONE COULD
HAVE SURVIVED
THE--

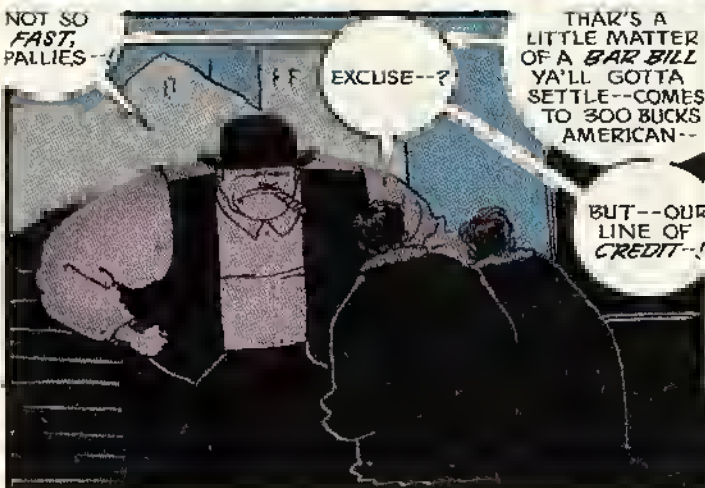
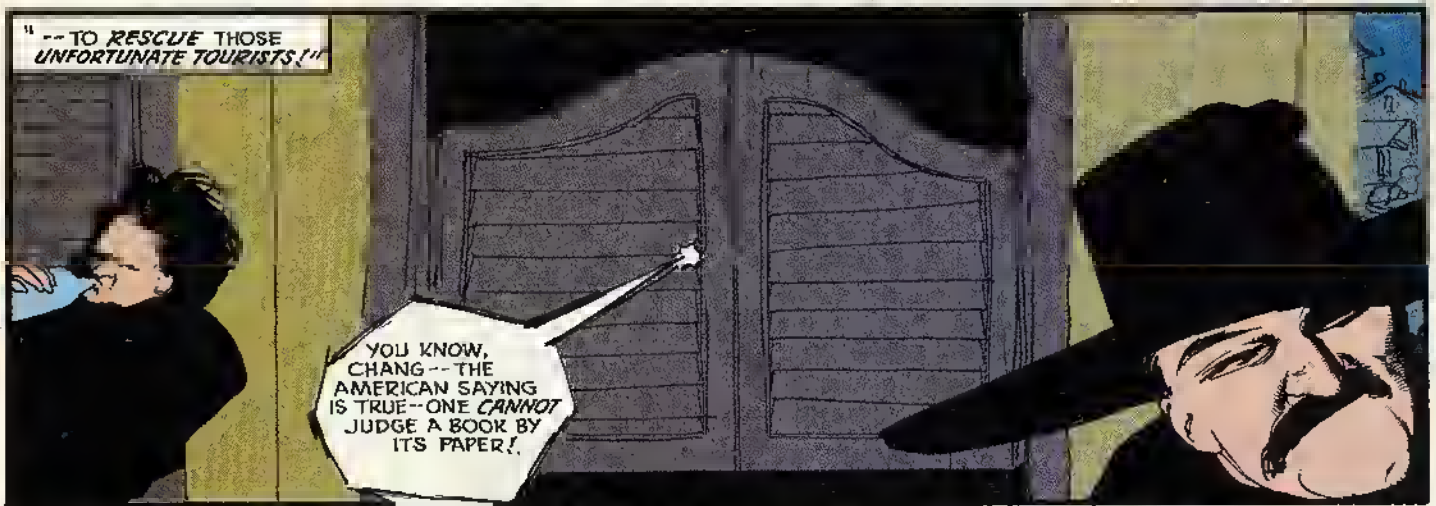
SIR!
COME QUICKLY!
THERE'S
SOMETHING
IN THE
CHASM!

WHAT IS IT
NOW, COMRADE--
MORE
IMPERIALIST
PARAPHERNALIA?

NO, SIR--
FOOTPRINTS!
LEADING OFF
INTO THE UNCHARTED
MOUNTAIN PASS!

AH! THEN
THERE IS STILL
HOPE!

SOLDIER!
GATHER THE
OTHERS! WE'RE
GOING DOWN
THERE--



88

ANNUALS



SWAMP THING ANNUAL #4

Guest starring Batman. There's a fungus horror loose in Gotham City...and even Batman might be infected. Swamp Thing is his only hope.

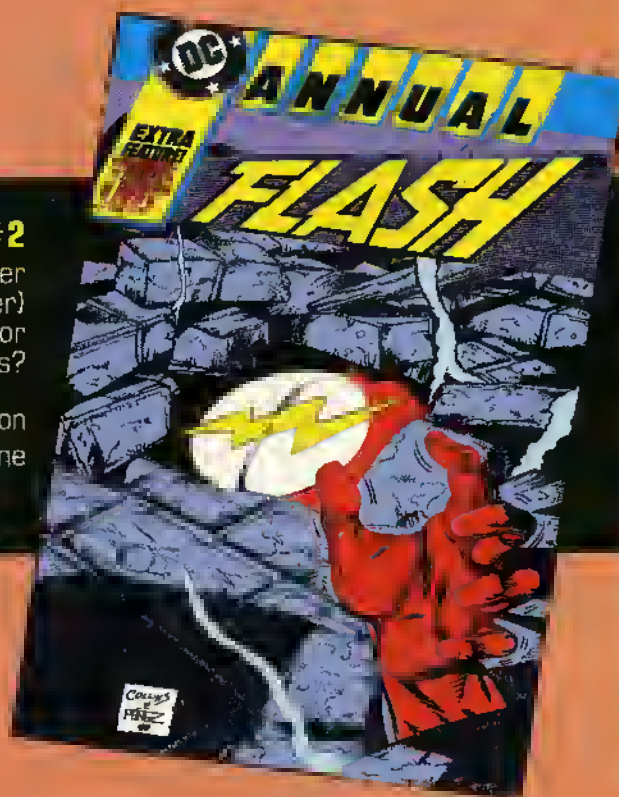
Bissette/Broderick/Alcala
Available in June



FLASH ANNUAL #2

Wally West's dad (the former MILLENNIUM-era Manhunter) comes back with a job for Flash...guarding a ton of bricks?

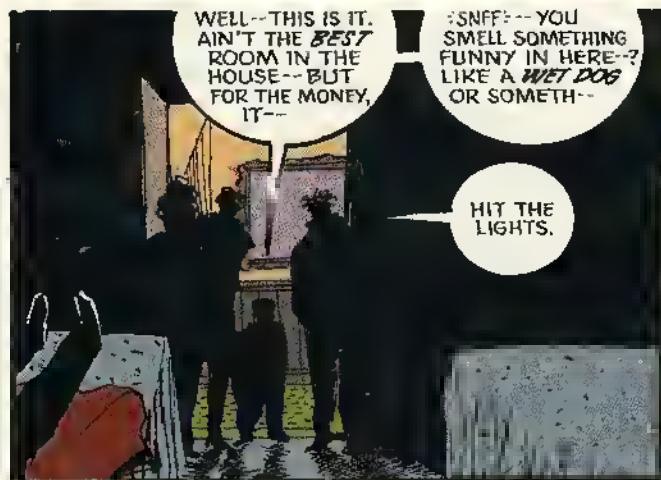
Messner-Loebs/Collins/Gordon
Available in June





GREAT THING ABOUT MALICE--
TEN BUCKS'LL
BUY YOU INTO
ANYTHING!

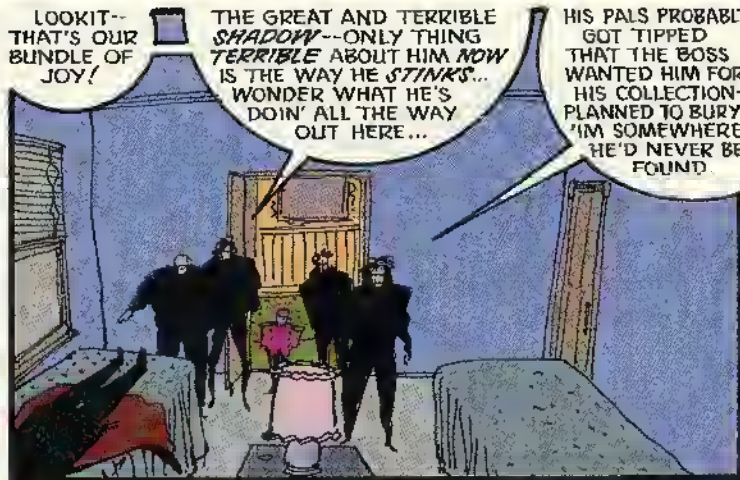
HELL, YEAH--
THOSE KIDS WERE
LOUSY TIPPER--
AN' I GOT A
LIVIN' TO
MAKE...



WELL--THIS IS IT.
AIN'T THE *BEST*
ROOM IN THE
HOUSE-- BUT
FOR THE MONEY,
IT--

:SNIFF-- YOU
SMELL SOMETHING
FUNNY IN HERE--?
LIKE A *WET DOG*
OR SOMETH--

HIT THE
LIGHTS.



LOOKIT--
THAT'S OUR
BUNDLE OF
JOY!

THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE
SHADOW-- ONLY THING
TERRIBLE ABOUT HIM *NOW*
IS THE WAY HE *STINKS*...
WONDER WHAT HE'S
DOIN' ALL THE WAY
OUT HERE...

HIS PALS PROBABLY
GOT TIPPED
THAT THE BOSS
WANTED HIM FOR
HIS COLLECTION--
PLANNED TO BURY
'IM SOMEWHERE
HE'D NEVER BE
FOUND.



BUT YOU KNOW--
WHAT THE BOSS
WANTS,
THE BOSS
GETS--

CAN'T GO OUT
THE WAY WE
CAME IN -- SO
OPEN THE WINDOW
AND GET READY
TO SPLIT-- I GOT
SOMETHIN'
TO DO--



YEAH...
THIS IS IT--
PRETTY-LOOKIN'
THING... IT--



:NGGH!-- IT'S STUCK!
DAMN FINGER MUST'VE
SWELLED UP WITH
THE RIGOR...

NO
PROBLEM,
THO...



MORE THAN
ONE WAY
TO SKIN
THIS CAT...

PERHAPS THIS WAS NOT THE WISEST IDEA, BROTHER--BY ATTEMPTING TO ENHANCE OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION WITH THIS GAME OF CHANCE--

--WE HAVE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN FURTHERING OUR DEBTS!

HOW MUCH DO WE OWE NOW, BROTHER?

BY MY LAST COUNT-- FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AMERICAN.

WELL THEN, BROTHER-- I BELIEVE IT IS TIME WE CUT OUR LOSSES AND CASH OUT OF THIS PLACE--

--IF WE CAN...

UMMM...THANK YOU VERY MUCH, GENTLEMEN-- THIS HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE--

HEY-- WHERE DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE GOING?

AHH...OUT TO GET A BREATH OF FINE EVENING AIR?

SURE YOU ARE-- BUT AFTER YOU PAY UP WHAT YOU OWE--

HMM...THAT MIGHT BE A SLIGHT PROBLEM... YOU SEE-- OUR FUNDS ARE SEVERELY LIMITED...

WHUT ???! YOU TWO OWE OVER FIVE GRAND--!

MY FRIEND-- YOU CANNOT SQUEEZE BLOOD FROM A STONE--

WHO SAID ENNYTHIN' ABOUT SQUEEZIN' IT FROM A STONE--?!

AN EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE METAPHOR, BROTHER...

click

click

SAY YER
PRAYERS,
COOLIES--

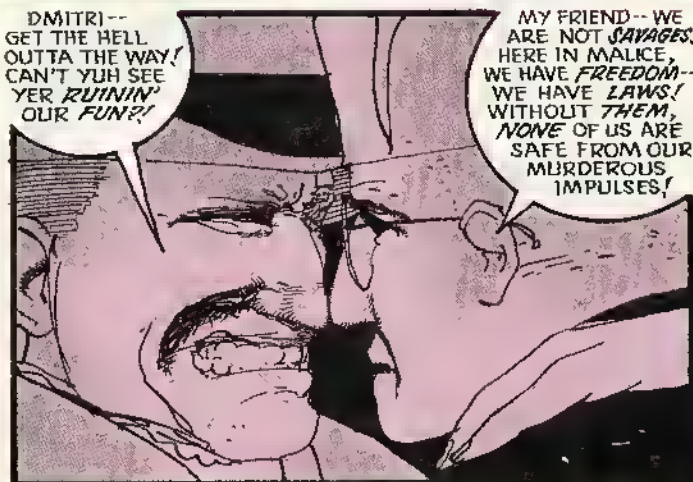


PLEASE--
JUST A
MOMENT,
MY
FRIEND!

TAKE TWO--

THREE,
EVEN!

DMITRI--
GET THE HELL
OUTTA THE WAY!
CAN'T YUH SEE
YER RUININ'
OUR FUN?!



MY FRIEND-- WE
ARE NOT SAVAGES!
HERE IN MALICE,
WE HAVE FREEDOM--
WE HAVE LAWS!
WITHOUT THEM,
NONE OF US ARE
SAFE FROM OUR
MURDEROUS
IMPULSES!

HOWEVER
CONTEMPTIBLE
THEY MAY BE--
WE CANNOT JUST
KILL THESE TWO--
WHERE IS THE
JUSTICE IN
THAT?



NO JUSTICE--
NONE AT ALL!

KILLING US
WOULD BE
TERRIBLY
UNJUST!

HMM...
MAYBE YOU GOT
A POINT THERE,
DMITRI...

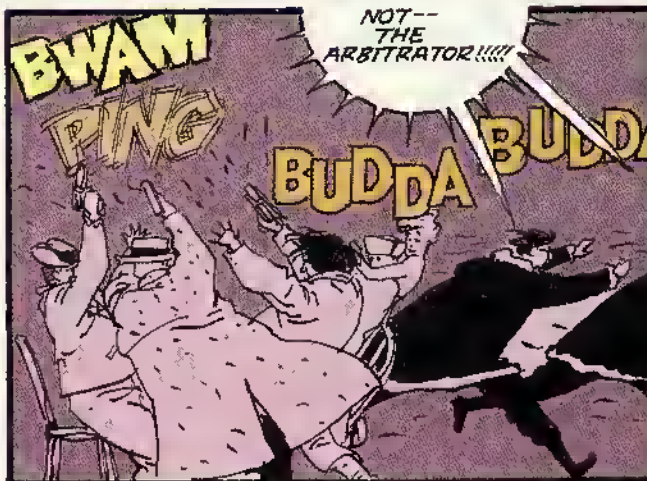


YES...
WE MUST HONOR
THESE STRANGERS'
RIGHTS JUST AS
WE HONOR EACH
OTHER'S...

ALL
RIGHT,
THEN--

UH-OH--

CALL FOR THE
ARBITRATOR!



NOT--
THE
ARBITRATOR!!!!

THE SHADOW IS DEAD...

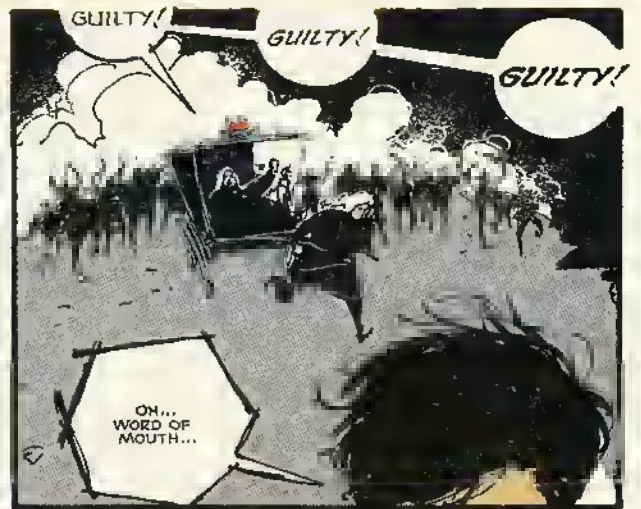
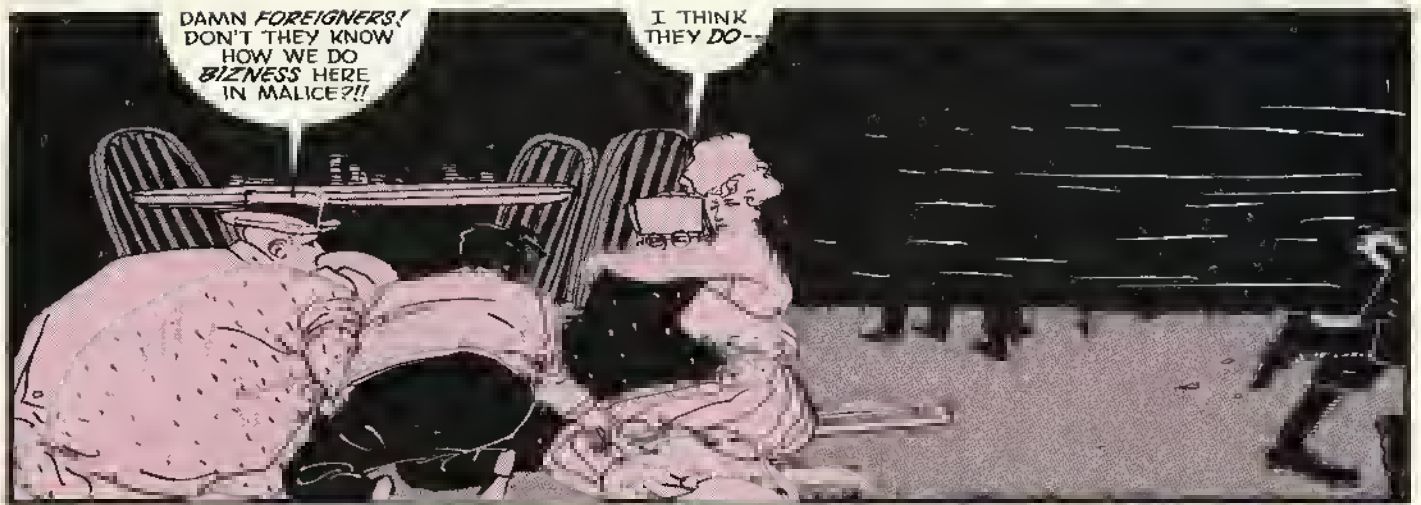


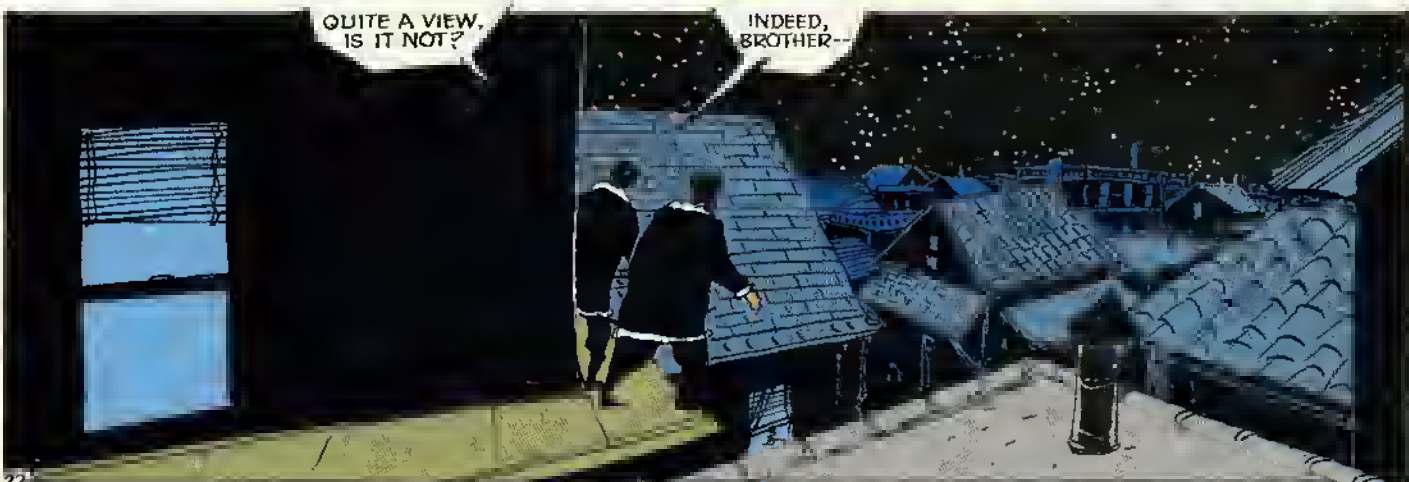
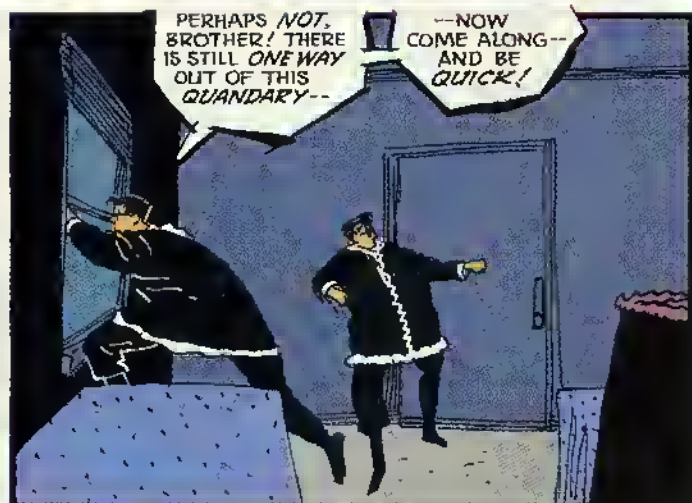
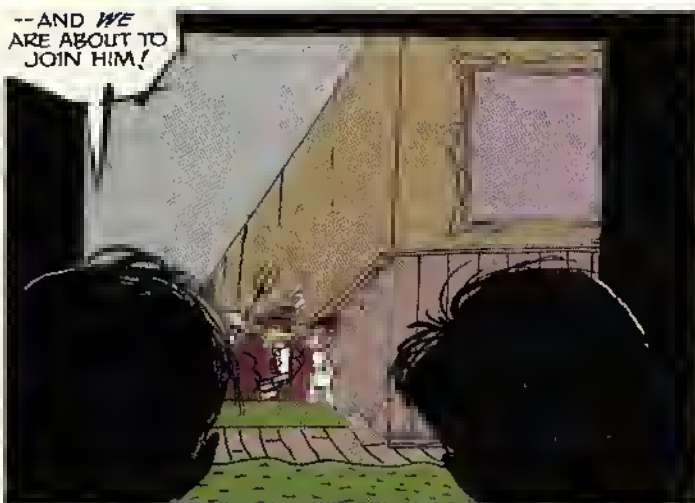
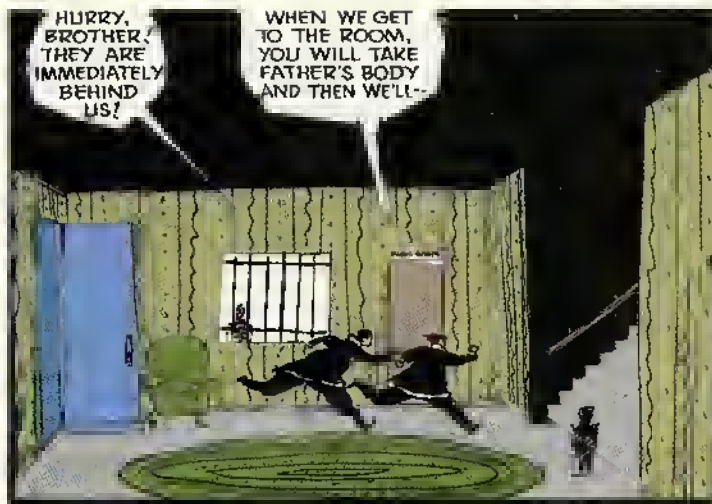
**...NOW NOBODY
KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS
IN THE HEARTS
OF MEN**

**THE
SHADOW**™

MONTHLY BY
ANDREW HELFER & KYLE BAKER
SHADOW 17 & 18 FEATURING **THE AVENGER!**







BLAM
BLAM
P-TYOO
PING PING

--A PITY
WE DO NOT
HAVE THE TIME
TO ENJOY IT--

GUILTY!
GUILTY!
GUILTY!

IT SEEMS
WE ARE
LOSING THEM,
CHANG!

ANOTHER
FEW STEPS
AND WE SHALL
BE OUT OF THE
RANGE OF
THEIR FI--

YI-YI-YI-YI---

AND NOW, CHANG?
THE MOB COMES
EVER CLOSER-- AND
WE ARE CORNERED
AS RODENTS!
WHAT IS OUR
NEXT STEP?

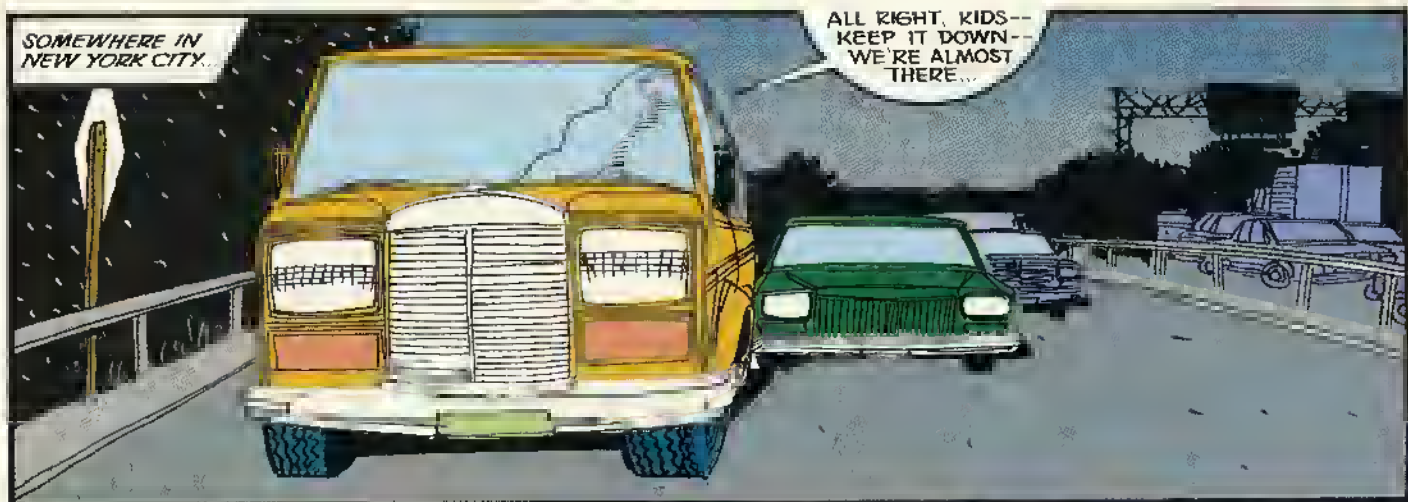
AN
ENORMOUS ONE,
HSU-- LET US SEE
IF OUR TRAINING AS
PALADINS OF SHAMBALA
IS ENOUGH TO HELP US
BRIDGE THE GAP
BETWEEN
THIS ROOF--

--AND THE
NEXT.

PERFECT!
WE ARE--

---SAFE---





SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK CITY...

ALL RIGHT, KIDS--
KEEP IT DOWN--
WE'RE ALMOST
THERE...

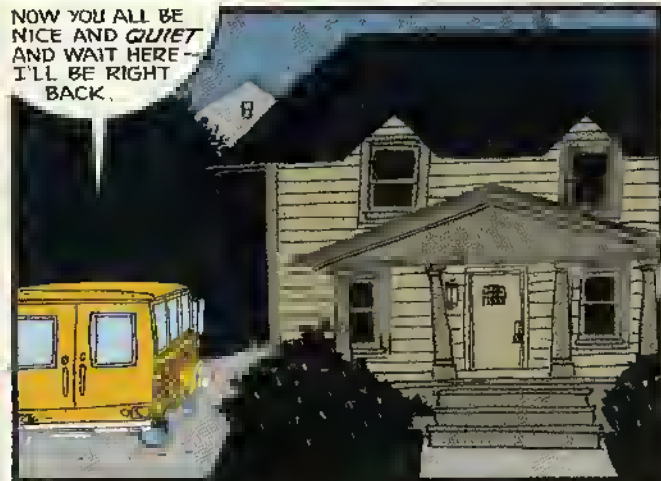


NOW, WHEN WE
GET INSIDE, ALL
YOU HAVE TO DO
IS POSE FOR A
FEW PICTURES
WITH THE
CLOWN--

-- AND THEN
IT'S CAKE AND SODA
FOR
EVERYONE!

ALL
RIGHT!

YAY!



NOW YOU ALL BE
NICE AND *QUIET*
AND WAIT HERE--
I'LL BE RIGHT
BACK.



ALL SET?

RIGHT--
CAMERAS
ARE WAITIN'
TO GO. COUPLE
OF HOURS, WE'LL
HAVE ENOUGH
NEGATIVES TO

--THOSE KIDS'LL
HARDLY KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED
TO 'EM--



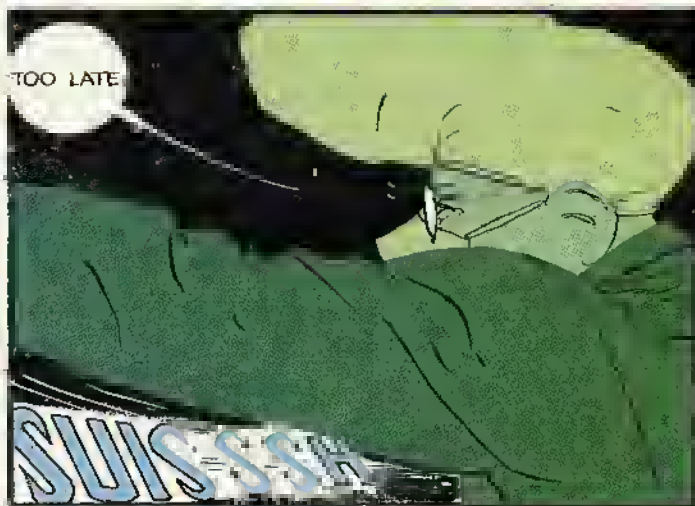
SOME
OF THEM
MAY NOT,
SCUM--

WHO--?



-- BUT I
WILL...






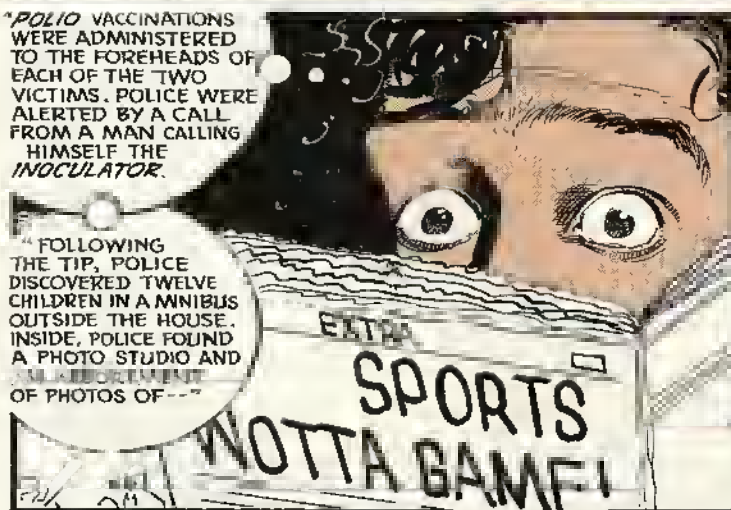
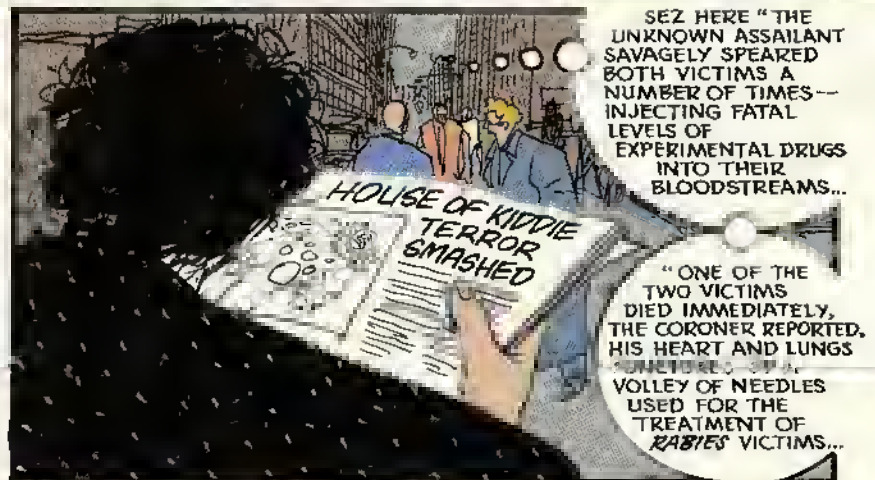
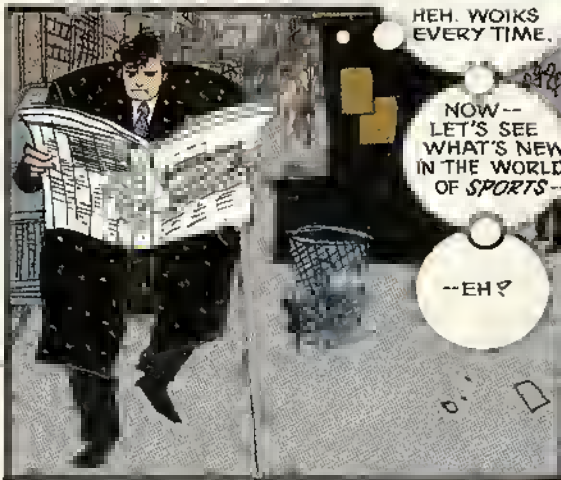
LATE WALL STREET STOCKS

THE NEWS
NEW YORK'S HOMEGROWN NEWSPAPER

PANIC ON LONG ISLAND!!
VIGILANTE SMASHES KID-PORN RING

LEAVES BIZARRE MARK ON HIS TWO VICTIMS!

THE INOCULATOR STRIKES...

NIGHT OF THE INOCULATOR

SHADOW #11 was a barrel of laughs! Now, I know that this book is supposed to be grim avenger stuff with the body count stacked high to the ceiling, and so it was. But even the killings were funny. The Shadow's back-up team have apparently ceased to be 100% frightened by their Master and have begun to make sarcastic remarks behind his back. We are not used to this sort of thing, so our natural reaction is to laugh. Detective Magret's eager young assistant was also good for a few howls. And the shot of the Shadow's eyes popping open on page 12, when he gazes at the pornographic photos—that look alone is almost enough to get the man arrested by itself!

Kyle Baker's art continues to be amazing in its use of black coloration and the mini-panels that look as though they were carefully etched on grains of rice.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

* * * * *

Dear Shadowed minds:

Where do you get off killing one of the greatest heroes ever to appear in a DC mag? What is wrong with you people? I can accept most deaths in the comic world, but this I cannot stand for! Up until now I have had no complaints with THE SHADOW. "Seven Deadly Finns" promised to be a spectacular storyline, but without THE SHADOW, this series, which you might notice is named after the aforementioned hero, cannot survive.

Oh, excuse me! Some of you may be wondering what I'm rambling about! Today I read in a very reliable source that the Shadow's sons were traveling back to Shambala to bury their late father in issue #14! Now, I admit that I am slightly infamous for jumping to conclusions before I know all the facts. Sometimes, because of this, I have kept my mouth shut! Sometimes I was right in doing that, sometimes wrong. But I cannot remain silent! I have followed THE SHADOW since the mini-series, and you cannot just set all that aside and kill a great would-be hero! The issue in question probably will have seen print before my comments are heard. Perhaps this letter will appear in that very issue. So my opinions probably have no effect on what is already planned, but please, please, please, please, if there is any way to stop this madness, please do it. I'm sure many readers will be a lot happier.

Please hear my plea and stop this unchained madness. There can be only one Shadow, the one currently wearing the black coat.

Remember, no matter what you try,
even though you may be his writers, the
Shadow will know ... he always knows!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA!!!!

Patrick Bagwell
603 3rd Street N.E.
Arab, AL 35016

Um...er...uh...oops!

* * * * *

Dear Mike:

The current SHADOW production team is one of the best I have come across in ten years of reading comics. Andy's plots are intelligent, engrossing and, more important, the dialogue is realistic (an often neglected point in comics). The recent increase in humor serves to counterbalance the manic, bloody violence (get some therapy, Helfer). Page 11, panel 17 of SHADOW #11 still had me chortling the next day. Kyle's art, I believe, is superior to either Bill Sienkiewicz' or Howard Chaykin's renditions of the characters. Don't get me wrong; they are both superior artists, but Kyle's simple lines add up to a complete whole that suits the Shadow and his agents perfectly. Tom's ability to color the scene to complement the mood also adds to the book's visual appeal (just look at the scenes inside Magnet's office, for example). Credit also to Bob's lettering; his circular speech bubbles really turn me on (kinky, eh?). Sign the whole team up for at least the next 60 issues.

It's a shame the Finns are biting the dust quicker than bunnies have babies; they were such a motley bunch of villains with great potential. They could have been used again in the future. I am curious to see how Ma reacts next issue when she learns of her sons' deaths. I hear one of the agents is killed; please don't let it be Twitch, Gwen, Harry or Margo. They are favorites of mine and, no doubt, of many other fans. In this month's letter page, you say that some other agents will be leaving, again I implore you not to get rid of Twitch et al. The only redundant agents are Davida and Burbank; if someone has to go, let it be them.

Finally, on the matter of a crossover—*don't do it!* A crossover would destroy the whole SHADOW mythos; the character was not created to exist in a world of super-human beings. He exists in a very down-to-earth realm of

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L-3279

gleaze and crime and it is this reality that is a major attraction for me. Introducing Batman or any other mainstream hero would wreck this idea of realism, and the book would lose a major aspect of its appeal to me (and many others). So no matter how attractive the idea seems—forget it—reality is an integral part of this book. Put another way—if you do produce a crossover, I'll shoot the lot of you (HA HA HA HA HA!).

Ta-ta and toodle-pip.

Tony Williams
18 Bennet Street
Garston Liverpool
L19 2NE
ENGLAND

P.S. How about a trans-Atlantic trip for our hero and his pals?

As you can see, Tony—several of our stalwart crew are on their way to Shambala even as we speak ... that anywhere near Liverpool?

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Dear DC:

Sometimes I think I should seek professional help, because I enjoy this book so much. It's so grim, violent and bloody; and often innocent people are shot down mercilessly ... how does Andy manage to squeeze humor and comic relief so successfully into such bleak material?

Kyle Baker has, in four short months, knocked my socks off! Now that he's demonstrated his abilities, I hope he'll stay on the SHADOW awhile and not be coerced onto another character or project.

Who is Rupert Tome?

Charles Harris
2657 N. Mountain Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Prominently featured in *THE SHADOW* since issue #8 (and foreshadowed, in a way, on the inside cover of *THE SHADOW* #1), Rupert Torne is the Shadow's official biographer.

* * * *

Folks:

Lamont Cranston gives a new dimension to the term "slave-driver." I Really, why do these people put up with his garbage? It's one thing to work with the Shadow, to cooperate with him, but Cranston's attitude borders more on "Do as I say or..." I don't think even I have ever had a boss as overbearing, as presumptuous, as high-handed or as insufferable as Mr. Cranston! He must have a helluva pension plan or something to get his troops to stick around; either that, or is it that the conse-

quences of "termination" make leaving his employ a bad idea? I'm puzzled, so help me out here!

I loudly applaud the coming of Kyle Baker to this book. He has an exceptional ability to make situations seem macabre and grotesquely humorous at the same time. Actually, the sense of humor in this book is highly appreciated by this reader, and I recognize that it is a result of the collaboration of both Baker and Helfer. I get my kicks watching the efforts of poor Margo as she desperately tries to separate herself and her husband from the vile clutches of the Shadow.

Oh, well, I'll be watching and waiting. I expect the Finn Bros. to be wasted by the Shadow. And I want to see Margo give L.C. a swift kick in the asterisk.

Chris Hutts
16011 Castletown Park Ct.
Spring, TX 77379

Sorry, Chris, but isn't Asterisk a copyrighted character owned by people other than DC Comics and/or Conde Nast? So that crossover is out of the question, we're afraid.

Mr. Carlin & Company:

THE SHADOW #11 sported another bizarrely rendered jacket by Mr. Baker. I say "bizarrely" simply because this is the fourth cover Kyle's painted, and not one of them has been executed in the same style. Versatility is a wonderful thing, and this is the book for it!

"Prime Time" was yet another riotous chapter in the saga of the Finn family. The bit with Major Clark really killed me. Colonel Renfrew's final words on MVN TV made for one hilarious parting shot. The Master hamming it up on the tube blew me away. Lorelei is an underplayed operative (for obvious reasons), but the brief bits we're treated to are both amusing and sad; she's possibly the most, if not only, poignant figure that Mr. Helfer has delineated in his radical restructuring of The Shadow myths. As for the Booby-Hatch Brigade, it wouldn't surprise me one bit if The Shadow ends up with them on his side and they're the ones who put the finishing touches on the Family Finn. Can't wait to see what kind of mother figure raised this brood of bumbles!

Any chance that Richard Wentworth will ever make the DC scene? A mini-series would be just fine, then perhaps an updated version featuring his grandson or a stranger who would take up RW's hat, cloak and mask. Another anti-hero I'd like to see in graphic form is William Hjortsberg's Harry Angel, the ill-fated transmigrated detective-cum-crooner who was the subject in Hjortsberg's book and movie adaptation, *Falling Angel* and *Angel Heart*, respectively. Any chance of making some kind of deal with Mr. Hjortsberg to get his work into graphic form? I'm sure Louis Cyphre could accommodate you in this endeavor. Wouldn't it be interesting to render 666 Fifth Avenue as it existed in the 1950s? Give it some consideration at least, okay? Naturally, the work would have to be in the Prestige Format and

carry the much-ballyhooed "For Mature Readers Only" label, due to its subject matter and theme; I'd prefer to have the book, label and all, than not have it available. I can't see that as censorship, just some respect and consideration for the consumers and protecting your own corporation; we don't need DC to go the way of EC, now do we? Rather than see DC get sued and barred from publishing, I think the educated majority would embrace the labeling practice. It's not that big of a deal when you consider the alternatives. Movies carry labels, and since DC wants to be able to present more mature subjects to its discerning readers, then DC does have an obligation to inform the public of the nature of its magazines and the respective contents therein.

So much for this month. See you next time around. Until I see a comic carrying the label "Sales to anyone strictly prohibited by law" ... give me DC!

Dorman Earl A. Larr
1159A West Main St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Nope, no plans for Wentworth or Angel to hit these pages yet, Dorman ... see ya next month anyway though, okay?

Shadowmaniacs:

Ahh, what a tangled web you have woven, Mr. Helfer.

Several Finns and one shady lawyer dead, crazed Rastas who have cornered Mavis and Elton, Gwen and Twitch have been brought back to the fold, P.I. Magnet has found something better left alone, and five certifiable psychopaths are loose in New York.

I just knew the Shadow had made a big mistake when he got the wrong Finn.

"Seven Deadly Finns" has become a most enjoyable crime epic. There's no big "moral" coming out of this story, just a lot of loose ends that need to be tied up. I don't know about the rest of the readers, but I enjoy a drawn-out story, one that takes four, five, maybe six issues to tell. Especially with the large assemblage of characters in this book, it's a lot more fun to stretch the plot out over several issues. More details are unveiled, and deeper characterization can be achieved in a mini-series within the series. I like it. Also, the incredible talents of the creative team can be showcased. The already mentioned plotting and scripting talents of Andy Helfer and, of course, the wild, exaggerated style of artist Kyle Baker. Damn, promise this guy anything in his contract, just don't let go of him!

I think that it's reflective of the quality (and popularity) of THE SHADOW that it has been able to attract quality artists like Sienkiewicz and Baker. The unusual and innovative style of this pair of geniuses has been the most notable hallmark of the series. Long may these high standards wave.

Question: How the hell did ten jeeps filled with mercenaries make their way through downtown NYC without somebody noticing? I think it's just a bit too much to believe. Would've looked like an

occupation force coming down the street, and I don't think that the average American would take such a sight for granted. Just nit-picking again.

Another question: How does Artie plan to control his psychos? They don't typically respond to someone else telling them what to do, so why would they start now? Unless Artie intends on setting them loose, to wreak havoc on the general populace? Frightening thought. It should be of macabre interest to see what these morally deficient deviants are capable of. Let's hope not too much before they can be recaptured, or better yet killed.

Let's face it, I don't care if the guy is "mentally unsound" or not, if he's that dangerous to society then he should be put out of our misery. Sickiness is no excuse to be spared justice. (That's right, I think Manson, Speck, Son of Sam and a few of our serial killers deserve the firing squad. Why waste our taxes on these pointless perverts?)

The death penalty may not be a sure-fire deterrent, but it certainly keeps the criminal from committing any further butchery. Can't argue with that. Cheaper, too.

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Shadowfolk:

THE SHADOW #11?

I loved the cover's homage to George Rozen's beautiful Shadow pulp cover from Feb. 15, 1939 (my birthday, by the way). It was nice to see Harry in his natty top hat again. Unfortunately, I could not find a signature on the cover. Was it the work of Kyle Baker? The only thing that would improve this series would be MORE LAMONT CRANSTON.

"Crime does not pay!"

James A. Johnson
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Kyle Baker's the artist of each and every SHADOW cover since issue #8, James ... lucky for him commercial art does pay!

NEXT ISSUE: "Night of the Inoculator" ... by Andy, Kyle, Bob & Tom (because "Night of the Twitch" didn't sound so good)! That's "Body and Soul, Part 3"—in THE SHADOW #16.



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